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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-246 *22 December 1994*

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 22 Dec

LD2212072394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0611 GMT 22 Dec 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow 22 Dec (TASS)—Almost all newspapers in the Russian capital give prominence to materials connected with the situation in Chechnya and run the Russian president's address to the people of the Chechen Republic.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star), pointing out that Russian troops continue to accomplish tasks to restore the constitutional order in Chechnya, reports that "more than 100 people have already handed over small arms, eight armoured personnel carriers and two antiaircraft gun mounts to Interior-Ministry troops in Bratskoye, Nadterechnyy district, where pro-Dudayev sentiments prevailed until recently".

At the same time the newspaper points out Dzhokhar Dudayev supporters are busy establishing guerrilla warfare bases in the mountains south of Groznyy. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA recalls that it was precisely those mountains where Shamil resisted the regular Russian Army for more than three decades last century. This is why, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA emphasises, it appears absolutely essential to give most close attention to Chechnya borders. Without that, the conflict cannot be localised, the newspaper maintains.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA draws attention to the need to toughen border control. The newspaper runs official reports of the Russian Government's press service and the office of the prosecutor-general of the Russian Federation about the situation in the Chechen Republic and also carries an interview with one of Russian officers who are currently there. The officer's opinion is that the operation to bring troops to Chechnya to disarm armed formations "was conceived and carried out haphazardly".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI runs an interview with Vyacheslav Mikhailov, leader of the Russian Government's working commission for a settlement of the situation in Chechnya, who pointed out that the only way out now can be only a voluntary surrender of weapons.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA believes that, although Russian military units have practically closed the ring of encirclement around the Chechen capital, an assault on Groznyy is hardly possible shortly.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publishes the findings of an opinion poll among Moscovites on the events in Chechnya. The poll was taken by the newspaper's sociological service. Fifty-four percent of respondents (as against 58 percent a week ago) disapprove of the decision to restore order in Chechnya by military force.

Sixty-three percent of respondents believe that not all political means have been used to settle the chechen problem, and sixty percent dread most of all the death of Russian soldiers during the Chechnya operation.

IZVESTIYA maintains that "the number of casualties in the Chechen crisis area grows with every passing day" and that the Russian authorities conceal "the aggregate number of totally unjustified casualties".

TRUD: Sergey Kovalyov and other State Duma members in Groznyy told the newspaper by telephone about a considerable number of casualties among the civilian population.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA runs an interview given by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to correspondents of the Indian news agencies UNI, PTI, and the newspaper Hindu in view of his forthcoming visit to India.

"I am confident that our trip stimulate a further development and upgrading of bilateral cooperation in all fields," the Russian premier emphasised.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI reports that the share of food and rawstuffs for its production markedly increased in Russian imports this year. More than 7,000 million U.S. dollars have been spent on foodstuffs, according to January-November data.

IZVESTIYA frontpages a letter by General Korzhakov, chief of the presidential security service, to Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The general criticises the activities of former Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin. The newspaper runs the letter under the headline "who governs the country—Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin or General Korzhakov?"

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an article by Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the central executive committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, who analyses the present-day state of affairs in Russia.

Zyuganov writes that "the largest scale loss of skill among the labour force since the times of the 1918-1930 civil war becomes the main factor in economic dislocation".

According to Zyuganov, "the management crisis, which directly leads to a break-up of the country has been exacerbated to the utmost" in Russia.

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Carter Mediation Scores 'Major Success' With Cease-Fire

MM2212095994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Sidorov: "Carter Has Secured a Cease-Fire in Bosnia"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina has ended with a major success. Through his mediation a cease-fire accord has been reached between the Serb and Muslim sides, which is due to go into force on the eve of the Catholic Christmas. Thus the conditions have been created not just for the improvement of the humanitarian situation in a number of regions of war-torn Bosnia but also for the resumption of talks on the basis of the contact group's plan.

A meeting between representatives of the contact group member countries and the leadership of Serbia and the Yugoslav Federation was planned for Belgrade Wednesday. Observers believe that at that meeting an official invitation will be issued to the representatives of the Bosnian sides to go to Geneva for a resumption of talks.

Commentators are highlighting one more fact which could demonstrate the usefulness of Carter's visit to Sarajevo. Haris Silajdzic, prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, has mentioned publicly for the first time the possibility of "considerable autonomy for the Bosnian Serbs" in the framework of a united Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as the establishment of "special relations" between the Bosnian Serbs and Serbia. Until now the tough stance taken by Washington, the main protector of the present Muslim government in Bosnia which has described the Bosnian Serbs as nothing less than "aggressors," has precluded such comments. It cannot be ruled out that Carter's mission gave official Sarajevo to understand that a certain evolution is taking place in the U.S. Administration's thinking on the Bosnian question. [passage omitted]

Disappoints 'Expectations' of Failure

MM2212093094 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 7

[Report by Sergey Moshechkov: "Jimmy Has the Magic Touch"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zagreb—In the end, former U.S. President J. Carter disappointed the "expectations" of observers, who had predicted total failure for his peace mission in Bosnia.

All the indications are that the ex-president, reputed by Western journalists to be "naive, taken in by the Serbs, and not up to Balkan affairs," was able quite quickly to find his way around the situation and find a common language with the two warring sides in Bosnia. Both Serbs and Muslims agreed—admittedly only verbally—to commence a four-month cease-fire at midnight on 23 December. According to Michael Williams, head of the UNPROFOR headquarters information section in Zagreb, Carter's mission also promoted the opening of Sarajevo airport.

Enabled Both Sides 'To Save Face'

MM2212090394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Dec 94 First Edition p 6

[Article by Vladimir Kuznechevskiy: "The Peacemaker Did Not Disappoint People's Hopes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jimmy Carter steps onto the political stage and ends a conflict. That is precisely what he has done in Yugoslavia in the past few days.

This is the third time in the past few months that the 70-year-old former U.S. president has rescued America's deadlocked diplomacy and along with it the reputation of the incumbent U.S. President in the eyes of public opinion. First of all in the case of the nuclear reactors in North Korea, then in Haiti. Now in Bosnia.

As is well known, J. Carter accepted the Bosnian Serb leader's proposal to meet with him in Pale for talks on the settlement of the Bosnian crisis. By his acceptance alone Carter practically ended the political blockade of Karadzic, with whom none of the members of the international contact group has wanted to meet recently.

All that the Bosnian Serbs need now is direct dialogue with the international community, and that is what they are being denied at the moment in Washington, Moscow, and New York (at the United Nations). But dialogue is necessary if there is to be a return to the international contact group's plan on the division of Bosnia only now, of course, taking recent events into account, that is, the change of this plan in the Serbs' favor.

In practice the West now probably also agrees with that approach but does not want to lose face. What it needed was someone who could end the silence and state the obvious. Someone who would be bold enough to say: "But the king has no clothes!" That someone proved to be J. Carter, whose trip enabled both sides to save face and created the conditions for all the sides to return to the negotiating table.

I would not be surprised if next year we were to see the name of Jimmy Carter, a politician with a preacher's face, among the nominees for the Nobel Peace Prize. God knows, he deserves it.

Diplomats Disagree on Results

LD2112182294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1603 GMT 21 Dec 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 21. (Interfax)—Russian diplomats seem to disagree on the results of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's mission which has brought about a ceasefire agreement between Bosnian Serbs and Moslems.

The agreement will come into force at 00:00 on December 23 and will hold for four months.

A senior diplomat told Interfax Wednesday that Bosnian Serbs needed the mission to save face.

He believed that the unity of the contact group that had been confirmed at the Brussels meeting of foreign ministers would compel Serbs to make positive steps sooner or later.

The diplomat did not rule out the possibility that the foreign ministers of the group could hold a meeting after Christmas, possibly early in 1995.

He said that if the truce between Bosnian Serbs and Moslems, negotiated with Carter's mediation, comes true, then the next meeting of ministers of the contact group would be needed

In the diplomat's words, Moscow did not feel sidelined and was not jealous. "We will evaluate the contribution made by everyone some time later. Now the essential thing is to pull the peace process out of the deadlock where it has been after the Bosnian Serbs rejected the peace plan of the contact group."

The diplomat emphasized that the Moscow authorities were convinced that the Bosnian settlement, with Carter's or anyone else's mediation, had to be built around the peace plan of the contact group. In his view, the Bosnian Serbs had no choice but to accept it.

Another diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity told Interfax Wednesday that the Americans had outpaced the Russians in Bosnia.

In his words, Moscow placed a bet on Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic on the assumption that not a single problem in the Bosnian conflict could be resolved without him.

"Because Russia was behind Milosevic, it was believed that the Bosnian issue cannot be resolved without Russia. Now we have to play in a new environment. Everyone can see that it is not Russia alone that can score successes with Serbs, albeit tactical," he said.

In his view, the lesson of the Carter mission for Moscow is that one should never bet on just one side in a conflict. There are, he said, at least five teams in the championships, Sarajevo, Pale, Zagreb, Belgrade and Knin. We should not shut the door on any of them even if Russia's partners don't like it, he concluded.

Serbia's Gen Mladic Warns NATO of War Peril

MM2112130794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Dec 94 p 3

[Interview with Bosnian Serb Army Commander Ratko Mladic by Sergey Sidorov datelined Sarajevo—Moscow; date not given: "Ratko Mladic: NATO Runs the Risk of Becoming Embroiled in a Far More Dangerous War. Bosnian Drama Through the Eyes of the Most Famous Serb General"—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Ratko Mladic is the commander of the Bosnian Serb Army. He was born 12 March 1943 in the Bosnian village of Bozenovici. In 1965 he graduated with distinction from military school in Belgrade; in 1975 he was the best graduate from the Command and Staff Academy. He rose through the ranks via all the command postions from platoon to corps and served in various republics of the former Yugoslavia and also in Kosovo Autonomous Province (Serbia). He was appointed to his present post in May 1992 by the Bosnian Serb Assembly in Banja Luka. Successes at the front and the solidity of the Serb Republic's military position in Bosnia are associated chiefly with Mladic.

[Sidorov] Mr. General, could you please comment on the events of the last few weeks in Bosnia.

[Mladic] I would remind you that this summer in Geneva we proposed suspending hostilities for a year in order to galvanize the political dialogue. The Muslims led by Izetbegovic disagreed. Then we proposed a ceasefire for six and then for four months. Agreement was finally reached on a one-month truce. Some 20 days after the document was signed they began operations in the Sarajevo area. Probably with the idea of turning captured territories into "security zones" and everything else—i.e. the Serb Republic—into territory on which NATO forces could operate.

What is more, Izetbegovic's troops seriously relied on NATO aviation. The 5th Corps' offensive from the "security zone" in western Bosnia is particularly indicative in this respect. They used their "secure" status to upgrade their arms and create offensive potential by means of machinations involving humanitarian aid convoys. Then, coordinating their actions with an offensive by Croat-Muslim federation troops in central Bosnia, they carried out a daring attack on and captured extensive Serb territories. We were forced to make a vigorous response. However, the operation we carried out was not aimed against the Muslim people in Cazinska Krajina (western Bosnia—author's note) but the 5th Corps. When Dudakovic (commander of the 5th Corps—author's note) was facing defeat, NATO aviation came to his aid. Over three days 127 warplanes took part in raids. Raids were carried out not only on our positions but also on civilian targets, moreover using the most destructive means. There were civilian casualties.

[Sidorov] From your viewpoint, how do the United States and West Europe differ on Bosnia?

[Mladic] I think that this war has shown the bankruptcy of the arguments put forward by those people in West Europe who deem it necessary to preserve a strong NATO bloc. The North Atlantic alliance was set up with

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a view to defending the territory of the member states. However, during the Yugoslav conflict NATO has gone beyond this task and has shown its true colors. This is not a defensive alliance but an offensive component of the strategy for expanding spheres of influence. I believe the West Europeans now see the danger of getting embroiled via the Bosnian conflict in a far more dangerous war than this one. The hard times being experienced by Europe may give the Americans an argument in favor of retaining their leadership in NATO and thus their control over a dangerous uniting rival.

[Sidorov] You know that of late people in the United States have begun to say that if it is necessary to choose between saving U.S. clients in the Bosnian Government and saving NATO, they would prefer the latter. That is really paying you an indirect compliment.

[Mladic] NATO has knocked itself out, it is hanging like a ripe pear, and the question is just where it will fall. Following the cessation of the Warsaw Pact's activity the reason for NATO's existence disappeared. Russia has assumed a peaceful orientation in international affairs, which is also taking the wind out of NATO's sails. But there are also other problems: Germany, for instance, exploiting the contradictions between the United States and some West European countries, is trying to expand its influence to the south, southeast, and east. Bonn is once again thinking about a Berlin-Belgrade-Baghdad geopolitical triad. The United States on the other hand is striving to safeguard its interests and positions in the Balkans by helping and strengthening Turkey and some Islamic regimes. But this runs counter to Europe's wishes. The peace concept is in Europe's interests. War is not in its interests either here or, say, in Belgium. And the European Union should be more insistent than anyone in demanding restraint from NATO in the Bosnian crisis. After all it is via NATO that the United States is stepping up its own presence in the Balkans at Europe's expense.

[Sidorov] I think that the West has been concerned that the interests of the Croats and Muslims would be infringed as a result of a rapid military victory for the Serbs as the most organized and best armed side.

[Mladic] We have never tried to inflict defeat on our adversaries. Although we could have done so and can now do so. We have not been fighting against the entire Croat or Muslim people. Let me cite an example. In 1993 during the war between the Croats and the Muslims, in view of the threat of the total annihilation of the Croat population in central Bosnia, the Serb people and their army provided the Croats with assistance. We admitted them to our territory and then transferred everyone, including armed formations with their weapons, to the territory of Herceg-Bosna (the Croats' state formation in Bosnia-Herzegovina—author's note) and even to Croatia. Near Vares we accepted around 30,000 Croat refugees and around 700 of their soldiers and officers. In the Zepce region we admitted 12,500 and 903 respectively, and in the Bugojno region 6,000 refugees and 604 soldiers and officers. Now look at the difference in outlook between us and the Croats. We transferred them via Kupres to Livno. But from there they attacked us less than a year later with a view to capturing Serb territories. And regrettably they succeeded in occupying the city of Kupres and part of the Kupres heights.... In the same way in 1993 we helped the Muslims survive the tragedy in Mostar. And thanks to our aid they survived there. Thus, to go back to the Serb side's intentions, I would like to stress what we have advocated and continue to advocate. We want the Muslims and the Croats to be masters in their own land. We do not want their homes, roads, bridges, or anything that belongs to them. But for the same reason we will not give them anything that is ours. According to land documents the Serbs owned 70 percent of the land in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina. That is roughly the same amount of territory that we now control. And we only want our right of private ownership to be respected just as it is respected in the West.

[Sidorov] Might there be a situation in which the three sides in the Bosnian conflict could themselves find a solution that is fair for everyone, without outside help, so to speak?

[Mladic] I believe that is possible. The war would have ended long ago had it not been for outside interference and had the ban on arms shipments to all the warring parties—and not just the Serbs—been observed. We will find a solution as soon as the international community starts treating all parties to the conflict equally and gives us an opportunity to reach agreement among ourselves. A peace will never work if it is imposed from outside. The warring parties themselves must reach a peace agreement.

[Sidorov] Observers usually name the three warring sides as follows: the Bosnian Serbs, the Croats, and the Muslims. It is now evidently a question of two groups—the Bosnian Croat-Muslim federation and the Bosnian Serbs.

[Mladic] That is not accurate. Since 1992 when Croatia perpetrated aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina its regular troops have been present here without interruption. And at present the 126th Brigade from Nevesinje, the 113th Brigade from Sibenik, the 4th Guards Brigade from Split, and a large number of special subunits of the Croatian Armed Forces and the Internal Affairs Ministry are operating in the Glamoc region and on certain other salients. Consequently Croatia and its army is one of the parties to the conflict. It began the war here with the intention of creating a Greater Croatia by using the Muslims, as it did during World War II, to reach the Drina. These plans received the vigorous backing of Germany, Austria, and the United States; and later the Islamic countries also subscribed to them via the Bosnian Muslims.

The Muslims and their patrons are another party. And I am talking about Alija Izetbegovic's Muslims. They

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constiutute a fundamentalist current backed by Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and certain other Islamic countries.

The next side are the forces of the Croat Defense Council. These being the forces of the former Herceg-Bosna. They are backed by the very same forces that back Croatia.

At the moment the federation's forces are an autonomous factor. The agreement setting up the federation was signed in Washington by Croat and Muslim representatives. Right now, this federation exists only on paper. However, serious efforts are being made to create joint Croat-Muslim forces. The first attempt being the joint actions by the combined forces of the federation and Croatia's regular army in Kupres.

Fikret Abdic's Muslim army is another of the warring sides. He has fairly strong military potential. During heavy fighting with the 5th Government Corps Abdic was able to hold on to part of the territory in Cazinska Krajina, consolidate and reorganize the troops loyal to him, and then mount a successful operation. During that operation he gradually recovered lost territory and he will probably be the deciding force that will defeat the 5th Corps. Abdic's Muslims have the same kind of relationship with Izetbegovic as the Serbs do because Izetbegovic not only fought against us and the Croats but also against his own people. Typically, Abdic has far fewer troops than Izetbegovic has. On the other hand, far more Muslims voted for Abdic than for Izetbegovic during the first democratic elections in Bosnia held before the war.

Finally, the Serb community is also a warring party in Bosnia-Herzegovina. War has been declared on us by all the above forces aside from Abdic, who has from the very start of the conflict espoused similar positions to us, namely the idea of seeking a solution to Bosnia's problems not on the battlefield but at the negotiating table.

We have always advocated political dialogue. In order to render the talks truly fruitful we proposed and are still proposing that a meeting be held between the troop commanders of the parties involved in the conflict and a treaty signed on the complete and protracted cessation of the war. In the future all contentious issues should be resolved with respect for the legitimate interests of all the sides without exception. Izetbegovic's Muslims and the Croats, for instance, are represented in international organizations, including the United Nations. And we have nothing against that. But the other warring parties, including Fikret Abdic's Muslims and the Serb side, should have the same kind of representation. Our delegation proposed that approach to the resolution of the Bosnian conflict during our recent contacts with the leadership of the UN mission. Regrettably, however, Izetbegovic's representatives responded in the negative to this proposal. Thus, they still favor war and a military solution.

[Sidorov] The war in Bosnia is extremely unusual. It contains a great deal of new elements for military scholars to analyze. How would you describe it?

[Mladic] It is a very grave civil, interethnic war, and at the same time a war of national liberation for us, which is being waged amid massive outside intervention and the implementation of NATO's crisis-management strategy. For the Serb people this war is the most dangerous in their entire history. So far, only nuclear missile weapons and the submarine fleet have not been used against us.

As for the intervention mechanisms, they are indeed worthy of description in special primers on the fueling of crises and their diversion into the "right channel." An incalculable quantity of government and nongovernment organizations, committees, etc. from the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees to the "blue helmets" contingent has been brought onto the territory of the former SFRY. They have actually been used to create a supply and rear services structure for the Croat-Muslim troops which is providing them with services ranging from road and bridge construction to cleaning the city's sewers. You just get on with the fighting!

On the other hand, a series of anti-Serb resolutions has been pushed through the UN Security Council. They ban us from defending ourselves with what we have at our disposal and at the same time enable NATO aviation to provide aerial support for the Croat-Muslim troops' operations. The resolutions on the creation of security zones for the Muslims serve the same purpose. What kind of "security zones" are they if they serve as bridgeheads for the continuation of hostilities against the Serb people? If these examples are not enough, I can go on.

[Sidorov] All this is indeed reminiscent of Orwell: Peace is war, truth is lies....

[Mladic] Here is another idea for you. Compare me for instance with Generals Rose or de Lapresle, who are the commanders of the UN forces. We are roughly the same age. I am now 51 years old. This war is the first in my career and I am waging it in defense of my own people on land where I was born and grew up. Now estimate how many military campaigns my counterparts have waged and where. Now after Vietnam, Africa, the Falklands, etc. they can don blue berets and call themselves peacekeepers, while I have to become virtually a war criminal for defending my own people from biological extermination.

Premier Expects 'Productive' Visit To India

MM2112135194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Dec 94 First Edition pp 1,6

[Interview with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin by correspondents of the Indian news agencies UNI and PTI, the newspaper THE HINDU, and RIA NOVOSTI, under the "Topical Interview" rubric; place and date not given: "Viktor Chernomyrdin: Our Countries' National Interests Coincide"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] You are about to pay your first visit to India as Russian head of government. What do you expect from this visit and how do you assess the prospects for Russian-Indian relations?

[Chernomyrdin] My first meeting with Indian Prime Minister N.V. Narasimha Rao took place last summer as part of his official visit to Moscow. I am convinced that our forthcoming talks in Delhi will be just as useful and productive.,

The Russian leadership is generally satisfied with the present state of relations between our countries. Political dialogue is proceeding successfully and virtually without interruption. It is becoming deeper and more specific. Despite certain difficulties we can see that there is a steady trend toward the expansion of trade-economic, scientific-technical, and cultural ties. I am confident that our visit to friendly India will stimulate the further development and improvement of bilateral cooperation in all spheres.

This confidence is strengthened by the fact that since B.N. Yeltsin's visit to India in 1993 and N.V. Narasimha Rao's return visit to Russia our relations have been heading toward the level of constructive collaboration on a broad range of international and bilateral questions. Russia is indeed demonstrating the priority that it attaches to ties with India in its policy in the Asian sector. I am pleased to note that these efforts are meeting with an appropriate response from the Indian side. Our cooperation is based on a coincidence of Russian and Indian vital national interests, and the implementation in our countries of largely similar economic transformations offers additional new opportunities for that.

[Correspondent] During the USSR's lifetime, state structures took part in trade and economic ties with India on the Soviet side whereas private firms took part on the Indian side. Ties with India are being decentralized in Russia now. How successful is this restructuring, and what is the state's role to be in the new conditions?

[Chernomyrdin] It has to be admitted that the main problems in bilateral relations are still concentrated in the trade and economic sphere. The enormous objective opportunities for joint economic activity and economic integration are at the moment largely a potential which has yet to be tapped. The obstacles are due to difficulties in the economy, unresolved questions of a contractual and legal nature, underdeveloped transport communications and infrastructure, inefficiency, and the fear of taking risks.

B.N. Yeltsin's visit to India in January 1993 and N.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to Russia in June 1994 made it possible to resolve a number of problems that had built up in trade and economic relations and to identify the main directions of their development in the future. On the whole a powerful impetus was given to our trade and economic cooperation.

The continuing problems in the trade and economic sphere are due not just to the fact that the restructuring of our economy and foreign economic ties is incomplete. Indian business was clearly slow to react to the changes in Russia; this also had an effect, and as a result many Indian firms lost positions in our market which took years to win to more energetic and less cautious competitors from third countries.

During the transition from interstate trade and economic cooperation to new forms corresponding to the conditions of the market economy and broad integration into world economic ties, it is highly important to preserve and strengthen the coordinating principle and not to slide into "unfettered" and unregulated exchange.

This does not mean a return to the old petty tutelage over producers and businessmen; it means a broad conceptual approach. It presupposes regulation at a microeconomic [as published] level, the identification of strategic tasks, and the creation of "material" incentives by the state.

We are convinced that the Intergovernmental Commission for Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation will be an effective coordinator of this activity. It should be the agency enabling the needs of the Russian and Indian economies to be "married up." In addition to the prompt solution of current problems its remit must also include questions of long-term forecasting, the transition to new forms of cooperation, and the improvement of the settlements procedure.

[Correspondent] There have already been two Russian-Indian summits. At both meetings the sides talked of the need to halt the slump in our trade and economic ties, but no decisive breakthrough has yet been achieved. Do you think that the goal of doubling commodity exchange with India in the next two years is still feasible, and what must be done to achieve that?

[Chernomyrdin] In the six months since the Moscow meeting between B.N. Yeltsin and N.V. Narasimha Rao considerable work has been done to fulfill the accords reached in specific spheres. The Intergovernmental Commission for Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, whose significance I mentioned earlier, has begun working at full strength. Considerable steps have been taken toward improving the contractual-legal basis of our collaboration.

I cannot fully accept your assessment of the state of our trade. There have definitely been some positive changes in this area. We can say pretty confidently today that in 1993 trade turnover stabilized at the level of $1.11 billion. In the first nine months of this year trade turnover was $1.14 billion, and the forecasts are that over the year it will be approximately $1.7 billion. We have every reason to expect trade to continue to increase in 1995, in particular through our increased imports of Indian goods using funds from the repayment of the state debt.

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So we are quite up to performing the minimum task, which is to double trade in the very near future, with subsequent growth.

What does this require? First of all, proper support from the governments of the two states. As far as we are concerned, existing problems will be resolved as quickly as possible. I can tell you that we are completing the development of a mechanism for the purchase of such socially significant goods as tea, medicines, soya cake, and tobacco from India on a long-term basis. A corresponding draft intergovernmental agreement has been prepared and is scheduled for signing as part of my visit to Delhi. Here is another example. The Russian government has decided to grant tax concessions: In particular, it has abolished value-added tax on centralized imports of goods from India. We are expecting our Indian partners to take similar steps to ensure favorable conditions for recirpocal trade and the removal of existing restrictions.

In order to attain the goals we have set we need to accelerate the solution of the problem of the transport infrastructure and banking services for trade. It is necessary also to encourage in every way the holding of trade and industry exhibitions and fairs, exchanges of sector delegations, and the organization of links between different regions of Russia and India. In other words, the main thing now is to turn potential into reality.

[Correspondent] How are things with the development of a mechanism for using the Indian debt, and what will it entail? During Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit to Moscow the Russian side suggested using part of the Indian debt to invest both in the Indian economy and in the Russian economy. Will you be taking proposals on specific investment projects to Delhi?

[Chernomyrdin] One element in the development of an effective and stable mechanism for bilateral economic and trade relations is the creation of a mechanism for the expenditure of funds from India to repay credits from the former USSR.

It has to be admitted that for various reasons the use of India's debt payments in connection with state credits from the former USSR has been unnecessarily delayed, and funds arriving in 1994 were distributed very late in the day. In view of the large sums involved in the payments and their long-term nature, we want to use them to resolve the most acute socioeconomic problems.

As we see it, one way of accelerating the use of debt payments and making them more effective is to further diversify the forms in which they are used. As well as the commodity tenders for implementing centralized purchases and the distribution of means through Russian commercial banks with no limit on the list of purchasable commodities, which were tried out this year, we intend to use some of the money to reconstruct and modernize enterprises and also to encourage Russian exporters of equipment sets to India. The first indications are that these measures are stimulating Russian-Indian trade and widening the range of Russian commercial structures involved in trade with India.

With a view to overcoming bottlenecks in the trade transport infrastructure, the Russian side has expressed an interest in Indian firms' participation, including financial, in the reconstruction of the ports of Novorossiysk and Tuapse. The first results are already apparent. For instance, on 30 November 1994 the Indian firm Apsal Properties and Industries signed a memorandum with the Novorossiysk port administration on mutual understanding and on the construction, on turnkey conditions, of a grain terminal at the port.

We are prepared to develop economic and technical cooperation on facilities envisaged by agreements in past years, depending on Russia's present-day financial potential.

We could promote the cooperation of both state and private organizations in the construction, modernization, and reconstruction of investment projects, the creation of joint ventures, and mutually advantageous capital investments. The Intergovernmental Commission believes that some of the funds from India to repay credits can be used to construct power stations in India using Russian equipment and technical experience.

Russian-Indian military-technical cooperation has been developing successfully over several decades. It is based on the two countries' coincident long-term national interests.

We welcome the improved situation in the sphere of defense cooperation in 1994. Problems of supplies of spare parts have been settled in the main. The 17 September 1994 credit agreement has been extended. The joint group on military-technical cooperation is meeting at the moment. As a result of it, a protocol will be signed during our visit to India on collaboration between Russian and India in the next few years.

We attach parasmount importance to questions of planning long-term military-technical cooperation with India. This will significantly facilitate the elaboration of our defense industry's production program and increase our enterprises' interest in cooperation with India.

Idea of Islamic Solidarity With Chechnya Said 'Unfounded'

MM2212092394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 3

[Article by Vadim Markushin: "Will the Green Banner Help Dudayev?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The reticence shown by representatives of the Muslim states in their assessments of events surrounding Russia's Chechnya has been another manifestation of the caution that inevitably appears in

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the corridors of power when another local separatist conflagration flares up. For all the influential nature of the growing Islamic factor, the idea that countries noted for their devotion to the teachings of Muhammad are ready for automatic solidarity actions along the lines of some Islamic international is unfounded.

Dzhokhar Dudayev's hope of receiving any real reinforcements from the Muslim south accordingly proved naive. In response to his appeal for aid to Turkey, President Demirel diplomatically spoke of the "pressing need to settle the conflict peacefully." At the same time he deemed it necessary to report the content of Dzhokhar Dudayev's message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

This fact demonstrates most graphically the priority for statesmen of political realities over ideas of religious affinity. One can hardly assume that people in Ankara or in the other capitals of states with Islamic traditions have even tried to weigh up the possibility of any real actions at government level to counterbalance Moscow. The point is not that Russia is very large and Chechnya is very small. It is that the situation is totally clear: Chechnya is an administrative unit within Russia.

Through lack of information someone may even describe events in Chechnya as an "internal Chechen problem" and Russia's actions as "interference in the internal affairs of a small country"—as one high-ranking representative of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has done. However, such misunderstandings in high-level government establishments are rare. For all their sympathies and fellow feeling, officials are going no further than making gestures of symbolic moral involvement since they are perfectly well aware that separatism is contagious. Those who have their own "Chechnya" are all the more circumspect.

The nongovernment role is another matter. According to some unverified reports, Dudayev has established contacts with leaders of the Afghan mojahedin, who have supplied him with a certain number of mercenaries. According to other reports, gunmen from neighboring Muslim countries, including Turkish "Gray Wolves," are fighting on the side of the illegal Chechen armed formations. If this and other information is reliable, it can only be a question of purely illegal means of providing outside support for Dudayev's regime. This has nothing to do with the relevant countries' official policy. Or with Islamic fundamentalism, which has, incidentally, never advocated the means of struggle adopted by modern extremist guerrillas.

How successful might the attempt by Dudayev's entourage be to lend the Chechen separatist movement the green hue of a fight for the faith? Obviously, time will best answer that question. Today, however, there is reason to look at the joint statement recently issued by [Russian Patriarch] Aleksiy II and Mufti Mukhammad-Khuseyn Aslambekov, leader of Chechnya's Muslims, in the Danilov Monastery. It says in particular: "We most resolutely reject the very idea of the possibility of the conflict around Chechnya degenerating into a Christian-Muslim confrontation. The true followers of the two religions only want peace."

Border Guards Block Dudayev Supporters From Azerbaijan

LD2112133494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 21 Dec 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The command of Russia's border troops reports more and more instances of violation of the border in the Chechen region from Azerbaijan and Abkhazia. In all the border guards have stopped about 6,000 people crossing the border. Many of them were carrying weapons. An interrogation of those detained has shown that the active recruitment of mercenaries for the Dudayev regime is going on among the young people of Azerbaijan and Abkhazia. Over the past 72 hours unidentified aircraft have dropped a number of containers with weapons, ammunition and large sums of hard currency on to mountainous areas of Chechnya. That is precisely why the decision was taken to close the air space with Georgia and Azerbaijan, which we already reported in earlier "Vesti" newscasts.

Transport Links With Georgia, Azerbaijan Cut Off

MM2112161794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Arkadiy Zheludkov and Igor Andreyev: "Blockade"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The decision to terminate transport communications between Russia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia has reportedly been made by the Russian Federation Government in connection with the events in Chechnya. It is not hard to guess what will follow from this—a virtual blockade of our closest Transcaucasian neighbors and allies in the CIS.

Ministry of Railways

Railroad communications between Russia and Georgia were terminated several years ago. They were still maintained with Azerbaijan. We were primarily interested in passenger movements—the most inexpensive and mass means of railroad transport. Our interlocutor was Sergey Bykov, chief of the Russian Railways Ministry Main Passenger Administration Operations Department: "Traffic on the Makhachkala-Baku line was halted as of 0000 hours 21 December. Until recently this was the only train running daily from Azerbaijan to Russia and back. We have implemented government decree No. 1394 and terminated the movement of this sole passenger train."

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Motor Vehicle Transport Department

Our interlocutor in the department was Boris Yermolenko, deputy chief of the external relations department, who, unlike his railroad colleagues, gave quite a full list of the reasons for terminating transport operations between Russia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan: "Transport through this region comes from abroad, mainly from Iran. Communications have been terminated in order to prevent arms and mercenaries being brought into Chechnya, since the roads from Georgia and Azerbaijan crossed the territory of that republic. In addition, under international agreements, we do not have the right to carry out international transport operations if we cannot guarantee the lives of passengers and drivers (this is our primary concern). In this connection we long ago, over a year ago, closed down passenger communications with Georgia: Russian transport proceeded only as far as Adler, and from there passengers were taken on by Georgian service vehicles. The Russian side did not have the right to assume responsibility for people's lives where it is unable to guarantee their safety. Therefore, under the agreement, traffic will proceed from Near Eastern countries across Ukraine, Romania, and Bulgaria. This route has been functioning for more than a year now in connection with the unfavorable conditions in Georgia."

Air Transport Department

The government decision has also interrupted air traffic between Georgia and Azerbaijan on the one hand and Russia on the other, conducted from airports without the status of international airports. In other words the point of the measure, Gennadiy Zaytsev, deputy director of the Russian Federation Transport Ministry Air Transport Department, explained to IZVESTIYA, is to rule out the possibility of foreign citizens flying into Russia by way of ports which do not possess customs and border services.

Maritime Transport Department

If you assume that the ending of railroad, road, and air transport operations might somehow affect the situation in Chechnya, no way does maritime transport sail about Dudayev's republic—you can see this for yourself by looking at a map. And yet maritime communication has also been terminated between Georgia, Russia, and Azerbaijan. In answer to the question "why?" Vladimir Sarychev, a senior official of the department, said simply: "We were not consulted when this decision was made. It can be assumed that this decision was made in order to limit the importation of weapons and ammunition into Chechnya from abroad by way of Georgia and Azerbaijan and also some other intermediaries. There are no other assumptions."

It is appropriate to recall that Russia has communications with dozens of countries. Why not assume that weapons can be brought into Chechnya from... China?

Commander on Border Closure

LD2112172494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow Dec 12 (Interfax)—The Russian border with Azerbaijan and Georgia has been closed since 00:00 hours of December 21 for vehicles, individuals and cargoes bound for Russia, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Border Guard Troops Andrey Nikolayev has told the Temporary Information Center at the Russian Government's Office.

The Security Council and Government have also reinforced border and customs control at air and sea ports maintaining international transport links with Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Andrey Nikolayev said the measures were taken to guarantee normal life in the North Caucasus and in Russia in general.

The special regime on the Russian border with Azerbaijan and Georgia includes the use of troop reinforcements and tighter border control and wider surveillance activity, as well as the use of aircraft, naval forces and border guard reserves.

Andrey Nikolayev said that all those measures were temporary and caused by the emergency situation.

Population Suffering After Border Closed

LD2112205294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1702 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sochi December 21 TASS—The Russian- Abkhazian border along the river of Psou was closed overnight following the decision by the Russian Government to suspend admission to Russia of people, transport vehicles, cargoes and goods from Georgia and Azerbaijan. At the moment, passage by the Psou bridge is free only for people returning to their homes, an officer of the Sochi Border Unit, Sergey Sorokin, told TASS.

Once the border was closed, cargo traffic to Abkhazia was also blocked. As a result, Abkhazian residents are now suffering an acute shortage of food supplies, well-informed sources at the Abkhazian Government said.

According to the republic's Information and Press Ministry, Abkhazian customs officers had not been informed of the measures taken by the Russian side. Abkhazia has found itself without any bread reserve, the republican Committee for Foreign Economic Relations reported. Abkhazian residents have no opportunity of selling their tangerines in Russia, which affects adversely the republican economy based on citrus exports.

Yeltsin Envoy on Talks With Milosevic on Gas Supplies

LD2212042394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1951 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Belgrade, 21 Dec—Questions of the Bosnian crisis and prospects for resolving it, supplies of Russian gas to Yugoslavia for humanitarian purposes, as well as the gradual lifting of international sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, were discussed today at the Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's meeting with the representatives of the 'Contact Group' on a peaceful settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The ITAR—TASS correspondent was told this by the Russian President's special representative Aleksandr Zotov, who is a member of the "contact group" along with diplomats from the United States, Great Britain, Germany, and France.

He said the talks were very constructive and useful and capable of giving a fresh boost to a peaceful end to the 32-month war in Bosnia. Slobodan Milosevic, A. Zotov continued, "was interested in supplies of Russian gas to Yugoslavia for humanitarian purposes".

"Russia's active efforts in this direction are unfortunately being blocked by the international sanctions committee while this winter Yugoslavia is experiencing an acute shortage of energy sources. The overwhelming majority of members of the 'Contact Group' today voiced the need to make a new attempt at quickly resolving this question," he announced. [passage omitted]

At the meeting they also spoke about the recent private peacemaking mission of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to Bosnia and the accords reached with his mediation by the Serbs and Muslims on a four-month cease-fire from 23 December. The opinion was voiced that in this way conditions could be created to develop the peace process in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to draft documents on conditions for a complete end to the war.

Diplomat Says Stance on Tartu Treaty Unchanged

LD2112120894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1151 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 21—"Russia's position as regards the Tartu treaty remains invariable," said deputy director of the Second European Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Aleksandr Udaltsov, commenting on the statement made by the Tallinn organization of the Estonian Union of Russian Citizens.

The document has become obsolete since the moment when Estonia was incorporated into the Soviet Union, and the problem of official recognition of the treaty has not been raised, the diplomat said.

As for a recent speech made be the Estonian prime minister who attempted to link the recognition of the Tartu treaty with concessions in border issues, the Russian diplomat reminded of the fact that the border between the two countries had already been demarcated. Udaltsov said that consultations with the director of the political department of the Estonian Foreign Ministry would be held in Moscow on December 23, adding that Pussia hopes for a constructive discussion both of border issues and the position of Russian citizens.

Foreign Ministry Official Comments on Ties With China

LD2212105394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0939 GMT 22 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Kirillov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 22 TASS—Relations between Russia and China developed "very actively" in 1994, according to Russian diplomats. "There were no breaks in the development of bilateral contacts," Yevgeniy Afanasyev, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Asian department, told ITAR-TASS today.

Following Chinese Chairman Jiang Zemin's successful visit to Russia in september, both sides continue the routine diplomatic efforts which are no less important than major, painstakingly prepared visits, he said.

Apart from Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin, more than 30 official Russian delegations have visited China this year, the official said.

As concerns the slump in trade between Russia and China (according to preliminary estimates, it dwindled by a third from 1993), it should be seen as "normalisation of turnover", according to the foreign ministry official, because it was largely due to the reduction of outgoing barter transactions.

As regards more promising directions of interaction between Moscow and Beijing, Afanasyev pointed to military-technical cooperation aiming to maintain "stability in the region".

Next year, Russian and Chinese experts will continue to work on further reduction of troops and armaments in the border area. The negotiations on this subject have lasted for years and are now nearing the home stretch. This inspires the hope that new confidence-making measures will soon be taken to enhance stability in the Asian-Pacific region as a whole, the Foreign Ministry official said.

Better working procedures were established this year to arrange trips by Russian citizens to China and of Chinese citizens to Russia. As for apprehensions in Russia concerning "Chinese expansion", concerns of this kind are being largely voiced in the Khabarovsk and Maritime territory. The Amur region, on the contrary, has displayed no particular worry in this respect. According to

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Afanasyev, these questions "should be handled quietly" through close interaction of respective services in both countries.

The Russian diplomat said "China towns" may appear in Russian urban areas as centres of Chinese culture and entrepreneurial activity in the future, even though "certain doubts exist".

The idea of Russian-Chinese partnership, including in international relations, will continue to be filled with specific substance in the years to come.

The two countries expect to complete the demarkation of the Russian-Chinese border in the next two or three years, after which it will be fixed in legislation.

Government Facing $20 Billion Debt Payment in 1995

MK2012134594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 20 Dec 94 p 1

[AFI report: "Debt Settlements May Top $20 Billion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The total sum of payments in 1995 may top $20 billion if the government fails to make headway in the talks with the Paris Club on a long-term restructuring of former Soviet debts. Kasyanov, a Finance Ministry department head, stated that the Russian Federation would not be able to pay its creditors more that $6.44 billion. Russia's own debt, run up after 1 January 1992, stands today at $11.2 billion. Payments on these credits will peak in 1995. Moscow, however, intends to pay them in full.

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Political Affairs

Official Reiterates Chechnya as 'Internal Affair'

LD2212153194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1415 GMT 22 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Dec [dateline as received]—Any attempts at interference from outside in the Chechen conflict, which is purely an internal affair of Russia, will be stopped in the most resolute way by all channels, including diplomatic. This was stated here today at a briefing by Igor Ivanov, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation.

At the same time, he noted that we do not identify the official position of countries on this issue with the actions of individual extremist-minded individuals or organizations.

I. Ivanov "categorically" refuted the attempts that are taking place to present the actions of Moscow in resolving crisis situations in Chechnya and Bosnia as evidence of a listing towards confrontation with the Muslim world. "On the contrary, Russia is interested in developing constructive dialogue with this world."

In the case of Chechnya it is not a question of a struggle against the Muslims, but against bandits, I. Ivanov stressed.

Government Issues Statement on Conflict

LD2112182394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1750 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 21 TASS—The press service of the Russian Government issued the following statement on Chechnya on Wednesday:

"The situation in the Chechen Republic remains complex.

"The Chechen leadership is preparing routes for the militants to retreat into the mountainous areas. Strongholds are being built and mines being laid along these routes.

"The Chechen command is trying to launch combat activities in the rear of the Russian troops by using subversive and sniper groups, and mobile combat units.

"There have been more cases of marauding and plunder in Groznyy. Enterprises and apartment houses are being mined.

"According to the Foreign Ministry, the Chechen leadership continues its efforts to garner support from abroad, mostly from Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia."

Ministry Offers Vorobev Chechnya Commandership

LD2212103694 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1000 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel General Eduard Vorobev, first deputy commander of the ground troops, has resigned. He has done this in response to an offer by the minister of defense that he head the military operations in Chechnya.

Vorobev Resigns

LD2212125694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 22 (Interfax)—Colonel General Eduard Vorobev, first deputy commander of Russian land forces, has resigned, State Duma Defense Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov told journalists in Moscow Thursday.

Yushenkov said that Vorobev had done so following a suggestion from Defense Minister Pavel Grachev that he manage the disarmament of gangs in Chechnya.

Yushenkov said that he admired Vorobev who did not want to be involved in an immoral action but was saddened because with such officers leaving the Army its future was in serious doubt.

Commander Denies Resignation Report

LD2212151294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 22 (Interfax)—Chief Commander of Russian Land Forces General-Colonel [as received] Vladimir Semenov has denied the report that his First Deputy Eduard Vorobev resigned.

In an interview with Interfax on Thursday, he spoke of there being no tendering of resignation from Vorobev by 14:00 on Thursday and held out promises of letting the media know if Vorobev steps down.

Earlier in the day, Chairman of the State Duma's Defense Committee Sergey Yushenkov told reporters that Vorobev had resigned after Defense Minister Pavel Grachev had offered him to take charge of the military operation to disarm illegal armed units in Chechnya.

Grachev Fires Leaders, Takes Charge in Chechnya

LD2212134294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1310 GMT 22 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok (North Ossetia) December 22 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev dismissed on Thursday half a dozen top military commanders from running military operations in rebel Chechnya and temporarily directs the operations

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himself, ITAR- TASS has learnt from sources in Mozdok, on the Chechen border where the Chechen military operation is being orchestrated.

According to the same source, Russian troops in Chechnya have received an order to intensify their activities to blockade Groznyy and liquidate illegal armed groups along the main railway road in Chechnya.

It has been also decided to intensify air strikes and artillery shelling of Dudayev's strongholds.

Grachev relieved from command duties in Checnya commander of the North Caucasian Military District Aleksey Mityukhin, his first deputy Vladimir Chirindin and chief-of-staff Vladimir Potapov.

The minister also offered [as received] his deputy Georgiy Kondratyev and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army Eduard Vorobev to resign.

General Mityukhin will be replaced by General Valeriy Tretyakov now in charge of the Russian Far Eastern Military District.

General Leongiy Shevtsov was appointed chief of staff of the North Caucasian District, while General Kvashnin became first deputy commander of the troops.

Until the new military command of the North Caucasian District takes over the responsibilities, Grachev will direct military operations in Chechnya himself, Mozdok sources said.

Ministry Has No Comment on Dismissals

LD2212143694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1419 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Head of the information department of the Russian Defence Ministry Vladimir Kosarev contacted by TASS refused to either deny or confirm the report.

Rybkin Sees Chechnya Status as 'Not Negotiable'

LD2212151594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1502 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 22 (INTERFAX)—The status of the Chechen Republic is not negotiable because it has been specified in a State Duma resolution where Chechnya was defined as part of the Russian Federation. State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin said so at the Duma Thursday session in response to a call by Vitaliy Savitskiy, MP, that Rybkin disclose his position at the December 17 meeting of the National Security Council.

Rybkin said he had insisted on ceasing the hostilities and negotiating "with all political forces in Chechnya." He added that he had informed the National Security Council that the State Duma was prepared to attend such talks and had formed its delegation for the talks under Deputy Chairman Valentin Kovalyov, Communist, who heads the Duma headquarters on Chechnya.

Kozyrev Notes Operations 'Near Completion'

LD2112153594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1443 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Serov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 21 Dec—Most of the tasks for the operation in Chechnya have been carried out or are near to completion. This was stated at a news conference in Moscow today by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

In Kozyrev's opinion, at least four aims have been achieved. First, "we managed to localize and in many ways to isolate" the source of the danger posed by the situation in Chechnya in the past three years. The second very important result of the operation in Chechnya, Kozyrev believes, is "the delegitimization of the Dudayev regime". The propaganda of official Groznyy has intimidated the population by presenting Russian troops as aggressors. However, "the example of the reaction of residents in Nadterechnyy district as the Russian servicemen advanced has shown that people have been waiting for liberation" from the Dudayev regime, he said.

The third result of the operation is military and tactical, Kozyrev believes. The armed gangs "have in effect been fully severed from the outside world". Thanks to this, the influx of weapons and guerrilla forces from neighboring states has been halted.

And finally the fourth result, Kozyrev said, is that "the Dudayev forces who have embarked on the path of the armed violation of the rights of their fellow-countrymen have realized that the hour of retribution has come and they will no longer be able to perpetrate their lawless deeds with impunity".

"Russia's actions in Chechnya are yielding tangible results and we will be able to see further changes toward the normalization of the situation in the immediate future," Kozyrev said with cewrtainty. The eradication of pockets of resistance will take longer, he said.

Views Political Situation

LD2212002394

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT on 21 December broadcasts the nine-minute "Details" program, in which announcer Nikolay Svanidze says: "It looks as if the present preparatory stage in the military operations in Chechnya is drawing to a close. The Russian leadership is getting ready for more resolute action. According to some information, more Russian servicemen died in Chechnya today than throughout all the previous days in the conflict." Svanidze continues by saying that Yeltsin

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cannot permit Dudayev to turn his fight for power into a national liberation and religious war of all the Chechen people and that it was on the advice of his human rights representative, Sergey Kovalev, that Yeltsin appealed to the Chechen people today.

Svanidze then interviews Federal Council member Nikolay Gonchar, chairman of the Federation Council budget committee, who indicated that the internal forces troops are calling the tune, "either the political control at the current time is so negligible, or the politicians are confused and do not properly understand what one can do and how one uses force." Gonchar continues that "at the present time problems are being resolved at the level of regiment commander, commander of a military aircraft or helicopter gunship, that is natural in military actions, but the issue is to what extent the politicians are in control of the application of force, and to what extent they conceive what needs to be done next." Gonchar goes on, "it seems to me that the generals, with the help of the Federation Council among others, wanted to stop this development of events, the clever generals."

Gonchar believes that the person who advised the president was not very accurate in his assessment of the situation in Chechnya, was guilty of wishful thinking, and was not clear about the possibilities of the power ministries. Gonchar interpreted the sending of troops into Chechnya as an attempt to compensate for Russia's humiliation when its soldiers were captured and put on display in Groznyy on 26 November.

Then, after speaking of Gonchar's fears that the Army structures may run out of political control, if Russia's action in Chechnya is ineffectual, Svanidze spoke about the drastic distancing of the democratic wing from president Yeltsin. Kozyrev comments: "I will tell you, for instance, that I am like-thinking when it comes to Russia's Choice, that is Gaydar, on a whole series of issues. I do, for example, favor democratic transformations, like the ones on which we have all set out together. We support radical economic reforms, and so on and so forth. Naturally, we are much more like- minded, and we share much more similar views on those issues. But let us say, just as Zhirinovskiy's party was unacceptable to me, it remains completely unacceptable. But on this specific issue, it turns out that they are expressing views on similar lines, almost the same views as we are expressing. So what, this is the nature of political struggle. This is the nature of a crisis situation. It happens that in our country, in principle, political opponents seem to be very close in their views on specific issues, although I think that in actual fact, if one goes into it more deeply, it turns out that we are perceiving it in very different ways, it is purely that the positions sound similar on the surface. Here differences have occurred among like-thinking politicians. Well, I think that we should not be afraid of that and should have a calm attitude toward it. I do not think that some kind of herd instinct should prevail in our country."

Svanidze concludes that only national security aide Yuriy Baturin, and First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays have failed to comment on the Chechen situation. He says that "according to the available information, Baturin has in fact been kept out of the taking of decisions on the Chechen problem. This is connected with the fact that his position was at odds with that which prevailed among those surrounding the president and does not mean that Baturin has been released from work on the remaining range of issues. As far as Chubays is concerned, he supervises the economy. That makes it possible for him to restrain from defining his position regarding Chechnya in public." Svanidze stated that Chubays would be hard put to make the choice between Gaydar and the government team that he now works with. He concluded that the rift between the democrats and Yeltsin may now be insuperable.

Poll Shows Muscovite Anxiety Over Chechnya

MM2212103094 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Sociological Service on results of poll conducted in Moscow 20-21 December, under the general heading: "90 Percent of Muscovites Still Do Not Understand What Is Happening in Chechnya. And Private Zhivun Will Never Know"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The conflict in Chechnya is spreading. Therefore, after a week, we again approached the Muscovites to find out their attitude to what is happening there today. The number who approve the sending of Russian troops into Chechnya has increased by 8 percent, and at the same time the level of people's anxiety and misgivings has clearly increased. In our view, these things are interconnected. A wish to suppress the conflict quickly, perhaps by the toughest measures, is springing up in many people, as is the desire to escape the danger associated with that war. That is a defense mechanism in the human mind. It is another matter that this reaction does not take into account the consequences of a rapid resolution of the conflict. In world practice this is known as "Ulster syndrome," that is to say, the war goes underground.

The lack of public understanding of the reasons for what is happening in Chechnya inflames these fears still more. In the opinion of 90 percent of the people we polled, the information they obtain from the newspapers, radio, and television does not enable them to understand what is actually happening.

We present the results of our poll, which was conducted 20-21 December. The figures from a week ago are given in parentheses.

As on the previous occasion, we polled more than 1,000 Muscovites, chosen as a representative sample. [figures in following table are percentages; all figures as published]

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1. What is your attitude to the Russian Security Council decision to impose order in Chechnya by military force?

1)	I approve	30	(22)
2)	I do not approve	54	(58)
3)	Don't know	16	(15)

2. What are you most afraid of in connection with the exacerbation of the conflict in Chechnya?

1)	Terrorist acts in Moscow and Russia	37	(21)
2)	Deaths among our soldiers	60	(32)
3)	Casualties among the civilian population of Chechnya	22	(14)
4)	Spread of the conflict to other territories in Russia	37	(28)
5)	Russia's becoming a police state in which conflicts are resolved by military force	8	(5)
6)	That this conflict could drag on for years, like the war in Afghanistan	21	(20)
7)	That Russians living in Chechnya will become hostages of the conflict, and anti-Russian sentiments will increase in Russia's ethnic republics	22	(13)

3. In your view, how justified is Dudayev's demand that either Yeltsin or Chernomyrdin should hold talks with him?

1)	He is absolutely right	31
2)	His demand is not justified	47
3)	Don't know	23

4. What do you think Dudayev is counting on in a situation where his forces are patently inferior to Russia's?

1)	The support of the peoples of the Caucasus	33
2)	The support of Islamic states	29
3)	That, given the most tragic outcome, he will become a symbol of the Chechen nation in the independence struggle	22
4)	On those forces in Russia that are opposed to military intervention in Chechnya	12

5. Do you think that all political means of settling the Chechen problem had been used?

1)	Yes	17
2)	No	63
3)	Don't know	20

6. Do you think that the information you are receiving from the mass media gives you a complete picture of what is happening in Chechnya?

1)	Yes	10
2)	Partially	45
3)	No	45

Yeltsin Meets Grachev, Yerin on Chechnya

LD2112133194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1311 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 21 Dec (ITAR-TASS)—President Boris Yeltsin met Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev in his suburban residence today and discussed with them the course of the implementation of the presidential decree on measures to strengthen law and order in the North Caucasus.

The press service of the head of state reported that Boris Yeltsin "instructed the ministers on the full and unwavering restoration of the Russian Constitution's rule on the territory of the Chechen republic."

Deputy Advises Yeltsin of Approval Over Chechnya

LD2112151494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1438 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 21 ITAR-TASS—State Duma member Vladimir Katrenko sent a letter to President Yeltsin, saying that he backed the president's constitution-enforcing moves in Chechnya.

Katrenko is a member of the Duma's faction "December 12 Liberal Democratic Union" led by Boris Fedorov. Fedorov earlier had made statements about his full approval of the president's policy towards Chechnya.

The letter of Katrenko, circulated by the presidential press service today, pours scepticism on "great experts in the north Caucasian situation—Yushenkovs, Yavlinskiys, etc."

The parliamentarian's address says: "with your character, the Dudayev sort can and must be done away with despite the many-voiced chorus of Moscow's petty peace makers."

Human Rights Group Publishes Chechnya Bulletin

LD2112205894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Human rights activists have long been concerned about the role of the mass media incovering the developments in Chechnya. They are worried about the fact that many reports are being censored or simply disregarded. In this connection, a group of human rights organizations in Russia has begun to publish a bulletin called "Without knowing, hearing, or understanding" [ne znat, ne slyshat, ne ponimat]. According to one of the publication's authors, Aleksey Smirnov, director of the Moscow human rights center, the bulletin provides the only opportunity to tell the

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truth about the Chechen crisis, all the more so that the Russian authorities are now openly disregarding public opinion.

[Begin Smirnov recording] You know, they answer letters less frequently and often ignore them altogether. [passage omitted] One might say that today is a birthday of the so-called samizdat. This bulletin is a samizdat document. If the authorities close people's access to the truth, people begin to publish information themselves. [end recording]

Official on Anti-Russia 'Misinformation' Centers

LD2112214694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 21 (Interfax)—There are facts proving that "several special centers have been set up in Moscow to issue misinformation for Russian journalists on events in Chechnya," said President Boris Yeltsin's deputy chief of staff Vyacheslav Volkov.

The centers "have already launched via television and some newspapers several reports on events in Chechnya which misrepresent the situation," Volkov told Interfax on Wednesday. "It was that misinformation that underlies several stories having an anti-Russian slant," Volkov said. He declined to name the centers.

Paper Welcomes Licensing Decree

MM2212100994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Dec 94 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Broadcast Under License"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A government decree on licensing television and radio has been adopted.

In any civilized state, as we like to say, it is impossible to imagine television and radio broadcasting activity without state-legalized order and the right to go on the air.

But in our country this mechanism has gotten out of hand or, rather, was never really set up.

The absence of clear order and of any openness whatever in the drawing up and issuing of licenses benefits, above all, businessmen and those officials from the world of politics who are in power in television. In Kislovodsk, say, it is possible to allocate one frequency to a husband and another to his wife. In Moscow, however, NTV, which was given access to the airwaves a year ago "by way of an experiment," quietly, under conditions of the strictest secrecy, and without any summing up of the results of this "experiment," receives a license instantly on the expiry of the year with the "highest approbation."

The implementation of the Russian Federation Government Decree No. 1359 of 7 December "On the Licensing of Television Broadcasting, Radio Broadcasting, and Activities Relating to Communications in the Sphere of Television and Radio Broadcasting in the Russian Federation," which was published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA yesterday, will make it possible to instill at least elementary order on the television and radio airwaves. Those who, prior to 7 December 1994, the day the decree was issued, received licenses illegally and whose activity on the air runs counter not only to existing legislation but even to editorial charters, can hardly reckon now on their unclouded future.

Deputies Oppose Yeltsin Over Elections, Chechnya

MK2212093094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksey Kirpichnikov under the "Humanists" rubric: "'Democratic Russia' Wants To Detach Chechnya and Reelect Russian Federation President. Two More Deputies Quit 'Russia's Choice'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Galina Starovoytova and Lev Ponomarev, cochairmen of the federal "Democratic Russia" party, have announced that they are going over into opposition to Boris Yeltsin. The reason is the developments in Chechnya. The developments, according to the cochairmen, threaten the use of forcible methods also outside Chechnya and demonstrate the authorities' possible unpreparedness for future democratic elections. Therefore "Democratic Russia" speaks out for as early elections as possible for president and parliament.

Responding to the question on how the federal party sees the future of the Chechen Republic—within the Russian Federation or outside it—the cochairmen spoke about the inadmissibility of storming Groznyy, the need for stopping military operations, and for talks by Boris Yeltsin or Viktor Chernomyrdin with "popularly elected" Dzhokhar Dudayev. It was only owing to your SEGODNYA correspondent's not quite proper insistence that Mrs. Starovoytova spoke for the solution of this question by the republic's population itself. That is to say, taking account of the local population's mood—in the wake of the Russian army operations—actually for Chechnya's separation.

Lev Ponomarev and Gleb Yakunin have announced their resignation from the "Russia's Choice" faction because "Choice" failed to bring home to the president—via its four minister-members (Messrs. Chubays, Saltykov, Sidorov, and Danilov-Danilyan)—the idea that solving the Chechen issue by arms is pernicious.

Democratics Favor Early Presidential Elections

LD2112225694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1924 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 21 (Interfax) - The federal council of the Democratic Russia Party (led by Galina Starovoytova and Lev Ponomarev) said that

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the party would become the "democratic opposition to the present regime" and proposed that early presidential elections be held in Russia.

Democratic Russia said that the will of the power to ensure order on Chechen territory was justified. The federal council of Democratic Russia said in its statement today that, however, it "completely rejects such methods for ensuring order and considers actions of the Russian power as a criminal adventure."

Democratic Russia demanded that "an end be put to military actions" in Chechnya.

Democratic Russia said that the Russian president must bear all responsibility for "the present tragic situation in Chechnya." Democratic Russia demanded that Russian President Boris Yeltsin officially speak on television and explain the reasons for placing Russia on the brink of a civil war.

Democratic Russia said that the present situation in Russia "has nothing to do with democracy." It said that a "reactionary coup" was being carried out in the country. Democratic Russia urged the Russian people to "unite and prevent the country slipping down to new totalitarianism."

Agrarians Warn of 'Split' Danger

MM2212102594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Danger of a Split"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Agrarian Party of Russia (APR) Board has instructed its regional organizations to "take concrete measures to prevent any new attempt to split the peasants' movement in the regions." This request is contained in a letter to the leaders of APR organizations from party chairman Mikhail Lapshin.

The Agrarians' political leader believes that the threat of a split has emerged following the establishment in early December of the Union of Russian Landowners on the basis of the Association of Peasant (Private) Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives (AKKOR).

Shakhray Heads Russians Abroad Commission

MM2212115994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Dec 94 First Edition p 4

[Report by Mikhail Aleksandrov: "Composition of and Statute on Government Commission for Affairs of Compatriots Abroad Approved"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This commission, whose main tasks are to coordinate the activities of federal organs of executive power in implementing the Russian Federation's state policy in respect of compatriots resident abroad, to monitor the use of the funds allocated for such purposes, and to regularly inform the Russian Federation president and the government of the progress in fulfilling Russia's state policy in respect of compatriots abroad, henceforth becomes the government's coordinating organ ensuring concerted actions by the interested organs of executive power in this sphere.

The commission will carry out its activity in constant contact with the organs of legislative power of the Russian Federation and its components and with public organizations.

Accordingly, the commission in the course of fulfilling its tasks coordinates the activities of the interested organs of executive power in preparing measures to support compatriots abroad, generalizes experience and prepares recommendations, monitors the fulfillment of Russian Federation Government decrees and directives in this sphere, puts proposals to the government and the organs of executive power of components of the Russian Federation, draws up draft decisions of the federal organs of executive power, and, jointly with the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, cooperates with government organs of foreign countries in questions of drawing up bilateral agreements on support for compatriots resident abroad.

The extensive list of the commission's responsibilities is supplemented by a wide range of powers designed to facilitate the fulfillment of its role as a real coordinating organ and a "locomotive" of the adoption of many decisions that are important to our compatriots abroad. In particular, the commission has the right to request of federal organs of power and other state establishments materials and information on questions within its competence, to recruit experts, and to prepare conclusions on the draft federal budget in the sphere of expenditure on support for our compatriots.

The commission chairman is appointed by the Russian Federation Government. S.M. Shakhray, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, has been appointed the commission's chairman. Apart from him, the commission includes, in particular, S.B. Krylov, deputy minister of foreign affairs; V.A. Mikhaylov, deputy minister of national and regional affairs; M.G. Arutyunov, deputy chairman of the Human Rights Commission under the Russian Federation president; and others.

Russia's Choice Rejects Withdrawal Reports

LD2112142094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 21 (INTERFAX)— Deputy Chairman of the Russia's Choice faction in the State Duma Boris Zolotukhin rejected reports carried by the mass media that due to the situation in Chechnya its leaders raised the issue of possibly withdrawing faction members from the government: First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays, Ecology Minister Viktor Danilov-Danilyan, Culture Minister Yevgeniy Sidorov, and Science Minster Boris Saltykov.

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In an interview with INTERFAX on Wednesday Zolotukhin underlined that "this issue has not been discussed either at the sitting of the faction or by its leaders." He believes that "there are no grounds to raise this issue."

At the same time another member of Russia's Choice faction, Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, pointed out in his interview with INTERFAX that "separate members of the faction have touched upon this issue in behind-the-scenes conversations."

Expressing his private view, Yushenkov indicated that the above mentioned members of the government "should determine for themselves with whom they stand, either with the faction or with the government."

Kozyrev Discusses 1994 Foreign Policy

LD2112203694

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1040 GMT on 21 December broadcasts the daily "Business Russia" program in which correspondent Margarita Filimonova says that a wide variety of views and opinions on foreign policy can be heard. We asked Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev about the successes and failures of this year, which has almost ended. He answered in an exclusive interview onboard an aircraft taking the minister to Murmansk to attend to his deputy's duties.

Kozyrev says that this year of 1994 is distinguished by pragmatism both in the CIS and in relations with the European Union. Take NATO, for example. We have reached, in fact, very good relations with them although it may seem that there are complications and so on. How can I put it? We are on the track but the train has not started moving yet. In other words, in 1994 we managed to put many issues on the right track, and 1995 ought to become a year of movement.

The main thing is that we have attained integration processes within the CIS. It was for the first time that we started mentioning and even building supra-national, as they are sometimes called, or, more precisely, inter-state associations but not ones that need their every step to be constantly agreed but rather such associations that can act independently, of course when there is general agreement of states. The mechanism has been set in motion here, for instance, the economic union, but one would like, of course, for it to stand firmly on its feet and develop a firm structure. This is likely to become next year's task.

It is politics precisely that is a stimulus for economic decisions and not the other way around. On the one hand, there are economic requirements but on the other hand, politics has split us the same way it is uniting us. In other words, the following has taken place at the political level: First, there has been a sobering-up regarding independence and sovereignty. We have refrained from imperial policies in relation to CIS countries and this has created a favorable situation promoting a victory of realism in these countries, and they have understood that it is better to cooperate with Russia because there is no danger there for them getting under some kind of imperialist pressure. But unfortunately there is talk in the West and our country, too. There are problems here with our ultra-democrats or, I do not know, some kind of ultra-liberal criticism, as it were, which has been heard of late. It [criticism] is confusing totally different things. Imperial policy is one thing and a policy of integration is a different thing. From the very start a policy of integration has been our policy, from the very start we have been striving for it to be not simply an association of independent states but rather, even at the time of Belovezhye Forest [agreement] we strived toward a commonwealth. Here lies the difference: An association is a neutral entity while a commonwealth [soDRUZHestvo] contains an element of friendship [DRUZHba], rather than only cooperation. First, this year the Commonwealth took a firm decision to hold a collective peacemaking action in Tajikistan and Abkhazia, that is, within its space it acted as a stabilizing force. Second, for the first time in 1994, the Commonwealth was given a status of observer at the UNGA and a certain status, so to speak, at the CSCE, the all- European process. In other words, all this has taken place not only because Russia is chairing and we decided to do this, but also, rather, it was done upon agreement, in other words, all Commonwealth countries understood that it is time for the Commonwealth not only to consolidate itself but also to make its presence felt in the international arena. This is a very important step, after all. If this Commonwealth serves nothing but the so-called civilized divorce then what is the point of going to the UN and the like and saying that there is such an association or a regional organization? So this year Commonwealth countries have come to understand that cooperation alone is not enough, that other states, too, should see them as an association. Whereas earlier each member tried only to show off, now they have understood that they have shown themselves off, and we have, too, but it would be nice to act jointly. So I would not say that the economy is the key, perhaps politics is even more important. One would like to see these tools, on which the Inter-State Economic Committee has agreed, to establish themselves as soon as possible and to start work But this is, perhaps, next year's task.

Speaking about our European policy, take the European Union. It was this year precisely, on the island of Corfu, that Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin signed an extensive program for cooperation between Russia and the European Union which, in essence, removes discriminatory restrictions. But one would like this program to be ratified as soon as possible not only by Russia but also by the 12—now already 16—European Union member-countries. This is, of course, a long process. One would like therefore the program to start working because Europe has now started, or is threatening to start, the so-called antidumping procedures against 12 kinds of

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our most important goods. In essence, these discriminatory barriers are affecting Russian goods. So the agreement has been signed but it has not come into effect; true, through no fault of ours but it is likely to be next year's task.

Filimonova says that Russia's latest steps in the international arena regarding Iraq, Yugoslavia, and NATO have caused inadequate reaction in the West. Could this really lead to "a cold peace?"

Kozyrev says: On the contrary. In fact, the president did not make a threat of "cold peace," he made a warning and caution to the effect that if a policy of disregarding Russia continued, the Cold War could turn into a cold peace. Look at the reaction of some of our ultra-liberal circles. I do not call them democratic because this is a pseudo-democratic choice, these are people who regard their rosy projects as the absolute, the same way, almost in a mirror-image, as the red-browns attach an absolute importance to their confrontational designs. In other words, one side has the following ideology: The West is our adversary, the red-browns maintain, and there is nothing to talk about, no normal relations are possible. The other side professes, in fact, the same primitive pattern, only the opposite one, and it is now becoming especially obvious: The West is very good and there can be no differences with it at all. If there are the slightest differences or disagreements on something, if there was an argument about something or a clash of interests, it spells a disaster, it means that the president, Kozyrev, the Foreign Ministry, and the government have given up democratic choice and an open foreign policy, they have gone over to the red-browns, and so on. But life is different. We have a democratic choice. Russia is becoming a normal democratic state but Russia is a great power, and not because we want to persuade ourselves of this but because this is a fact, and it is enough to look at the map to see this.

Russia is a normal democratic state. Of course, we will cooperate with Western partners but, at the same time, we will defend our interests in a normal way, the way they do it between themselves. France and the United States have different policies in Iraq but nobody concludes from this that the French Government has become red-brown, do you agree? The same here. I hope that normal Russians will not conclude from this that Yeltsin's and Kozyrev's foreign policy has become red-brown only because we have specific differences on a specific issue with only two or three specific Western countries. Yes, there are and will be differences, and I believe that it is for our good to be able to defend our interests.

Filimonova says that it is very difficult to forecast foreign policy but one thing is indisputable: Russia must be able to defend its national interests.

Economic Issues

Chubays, Livshits Brief Media on Edicts

MM2212111994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 4

[Report by Igor Karpenko: "President Signed Package of Economic Edicts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays and Presidential Aide Aleksandr Livshits have informed journalists that Boris Yeltsin signed three new economic edicts 20 December; they also gave details of the aid measures for participants in the Great Patriotic War proposed by the president on the eve of the 50th anniversary of victory.

The Edict on the Features of Privatizing Enterprises Involved in the Primary Processing of Agricultural Produce and the Provision of Production and Technical Services for the Agro-Industrial Complex determines a procedure under which these enterprises are transformed into open-type joint-stock companies, and that part of the shares made available for purchase is sold to producers of the raw material base. Apart from additional benefits, this will give producers a chance to take part in working out important decisions, such as prices for agricultural produce and so on, and to overcome the localized monopolism of those involved in the processing stages.

According to existing legislation, the deadline for obtaining licenses for the right to engage in professional activity on the securities market expires 1 January 1995. Not all finance companies have managed to do this on time. Under the president's edict, the Federal Commission for Securities and the Stock Market has been tasked with issuing temporary permits for the right to engage in this activity until 1 March 1995. It goes without saying that the commission will offer such permits to finance companies able to function in a civilized manner on the securities market.

The third edict concerns the most severe problem of the Russian economy—nonpayments. As of 1 January 1995, a legal standard is being introduced according to which payment for a commodity supplied on contract must be effected within a period of no more than three months from the moment of receiving the commodity. If payment is not effected, the debts receivable are written off as part of the enterprise's losses. At the same time, bankruptcy agents obtain the right to recover [vzyskaniye] all these resources as revenue for the state. These fairly austere, essentially bureaucratic measures should impose basic order in financial settlements, something which is clearly lacking today. In many ways these measure are prompted by the fact that nonpayments have become a source of illicit income for managers of debtor and creditor enterprise alike, at the expense of their collectives and the state.

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On the eve of the 50th anniversary of victory, the president has proposed significant measures for participants in the Great Patriotic. Those who, today, are not receiving invalidity pensions as a result of their being disabled in the Great Patriotic War—and they number around 2.5 million—can expect a perceptible increase in the size of their pensions. For those who have reached the age of 80, as well as those with regular group one or two disabilities, pensions will be increased by two minimum pension levels—almost by 70,000 rubles. For the rest, irrespective of age, they will be increased by one minimum pension level. Great Patriotic War widows will also receive the same increment. Moreover, these payments are permanent, and they will indexed in the usual way. Other benefits are planned—for recreation, medicines, health care, and so on. As we know, the president himself cannot confirm such benefits definitively through his edict. Therefore, a similar draft law has been submitted to the Duma, and the government is convinced that it will be supported by the deputies.

Anatoliy Chubays and Aleksandr Livshits also announced that the coordinating commission has finally presented the Duma with the 1995 draft budget for discussion in the first reading. On the whole, its basic key parameters are preserved. Among the most drastic changes, the reduction from 41 to 30 trillion rubles [R] of the extent of the deficit to be covered via the issuing of state securities can be noted, along with the increase in the projected average rate of inflation to between 2.5 and 3 percent.

A figure has been named for allocations to revive the economy of Chechnya. R1 trillion is being made available for all expenditure—from acquiring seed for spring sowing to restoring main transportation routes.

Chubays Notes 1995 Budget Plans Smaller Deficit

MK2112110994 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 Dec 94 p 1

[Dmitriy Volkov report in the "Finances" column: "Messrs. Panskov and Zadornov Have Concurred in Appraising the Budget Deficit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the State Duma is planning to consider the draft 1995 budget in the first reading. According to First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays, as a result of the work by the conciliation commission headed by Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov and Budget Committee Chairman Mikhail Zadornov, "real chances have emerged for the spirit of consensus between the two sides," achieved by the commission, "to be realized at the session" of the lower house. Mr. Chubays said yesterday that the coordinated draft budget not only does not envision an increase in the budget deficit but, quite the contrary, reduces its estimate by 0.1 percent, to 7.7 percent of GDP.

According to Mr. Chubays, this result was achieved mainly by reassessing two treasury revenue sources: export and import duties. The government heeded the demands by Economic Policy Committee Chairman Sergey Glazyev and announced the abolition of all exemptions in foreign economic activity. Thus it has increased the expected revenues from export duties and import tariffs. The latter should average 7.5 percent.

Moreover, the government, Mr. Chubays said, took into account "justified criticism" and reduced by one-quarter the predicted revenues from the sale of state securities on the domestic market. According to estimates by conciliation commission members, of the 30 trillion rubles which the treasury could thus get, between 12 and 20 trillion could be made up by purchases on the part of the Central Bank.

The increase in the estimated treasury revenues has apparently been achieved not only through the above sources. First, the rate of the dollar against the ruble has been revised, and as of 1 January it is not 3200 rubles per dollar, but 3700 rubles more. This also makes it possible to reassess the ruble equivalent of expected foreign credits. Second, the conciliation commission decided to lower the level at which individual incomes would be tax-free. True, the tax commission—also conciliatory—had been proposing that this level be raised all along.

Mr. Chubays, demonstrating optimism and confidence that the "stated financial policy" will be continued, nonetheless was hard put to assess the possible impact of the North Caucasian crisis on the budget situation. He described the probability of the granting of devastating financial privileges to individual regions for political motives as the result of "various contingencies," which, however, cannot be ruled out today.

Anatoliy Chubays announced yesterday that Boris Yeltsin has signed an edict "On Enforcing Law and Order in Settlements and Payments for Products Delivered." Under this document, the maximum term for making settlements on deliveries is established at three months. If settlements are not effected within this period, the funds not received by the supplier enterprise (debtor's liability [debitorskaya zadolzhennost]) shall be posted by it as a loss, and the Federal Bankruptcy Agency will be authorized to recover and transfer the funds to the treasury. Mr. Chubays explained that "dishonest directors" often use the situation when the consumer does not pay for the goods delivered to their companies in order to "cover up fraudulent practices, often on a very large scale." Aleksandr Livshits, the president's economic adviser, described the situation wherein the lack of payment for shipments is beneficial both to the supplier and the buyer as a "mystified economy." The edict enters into force as of 1 January 1995.

Military Issues

Kokoshin Foresees 'Disastrous' Army Condition

LD2112185394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1735 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 21 TASS—Proceeding from Russia's approved budget for 1994, the state owes army and defence industry 8.4 billion roubles. This has already led to scarce rationing of soldiers, irregular repairs of the military equipment, and frequent disruption of military transportations, a Russian top military official told TASS on Wednesday. The tempo of implementing the housing programme for servicemen has sharply slowed, he also said.

After reporting to the Russian legislature on the military budget for 1995, Russian First Deputy [Defense] Minister Andrey Kokoshin told TASS that "the army condition is going to be disastrous" in 1995 if the parliament approved the budget proposed by the government. "We manage to conduct combat training and maintain many military facilities with every nerve strained," he noted.

"However, all possible means are taken to ensure due combat readiness of major components of the Russian Armed Forces, including strategic missile forces, space forces, nuclear attack warning system, and strategic submarine units," Kokoshin stressed.

Federal Assembly

Finance Minister Presents Budget Projections

LD2112151094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1437 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 21 TASS—Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov on Wednesday [21 December] briefed the State Duma on the cabinet's prognosis for next year's social and economic development.

According to the minister, the gross domestic product output will amount to 930-1000 trillion roubles, while the inflation rate will stand at 2.5-3 percent a month next year. The industial production is expected to drop 10-14 percent and the agricultural production to fall 10-15 percent. The minimum monthly wage is planned to be raised to 34440 roubles from March 1.

Panskov noted that the state budget revenues from taxes were about four trillion roubles less than expected. Russia's tax system with its 43 types of taxes needs to be changed, the minister said.

According to Panskov, the Chechen crisis has already cost Russia 400 billion roubles for the time being. The bulk of the sum has been spent to finance the army, he noted.

Duma Rejects First Draft Proposal

LD2112164194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 21 TASS—The State Duma, parliament's lower house, failed on Wednesday [21 December] to approve in first reading the 1995 federal budget draft.

However, lawmakers decided to put this issue on another vote at the house's plenary meeting on Thursday. Before the vote, the main target figures of the draft budget are to be specified by a conciliation commission consisting of government members, deputies' groups and Duma committees.

The commission is to finalize the draft budget with due regard for remarks and suggestions moved by members of Duma factions during today's debates.

Budget Discussion Postponed

LD2212113194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1034 GMT 22 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 22 TASS—Today's first reading debate on the 1995 budget plan in the Russian State Duma was inconclusive again. The budget was not passed by Wednesday's vote, and deputies sent the budget to a conciliatory commission for refinement with account for proposals from factions.

However, the 1995 budget did not get adequate support today, largely because the Russian Communist Party faction, led by Gennadiy Zyuganov, opposes the budget plan which, Zuganov says, projects a ten to 15 percent production decline.

Commenting on today's vote, lower house chairman Ivan Rybkin said the only way for deputies now is to pass a federal law on public spending coverage for the first quarter of 1995. Nonetheless, Rybkin proposed that the conciliatory commission of government members and the Duma's faction and committee delegates continue work on the budget so as the debate is resumed on December 23.

DPR To Insist Duma Adopt Factions Budget Proposals

LD2112223194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1924 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 21 (Interfax)—The parliamentary faction of the Democratic Party of Russia (DPR) has a "special opinion" on the decision of the conciliatory commission completing the draft federal budget for 1995 which will be submitted for consideration by the State Duma. The DPR faction will insist on its proposals, leader of the DPR parliamentary faction Sergey Glazyev told a press conference.

He said that the conciliatory commission had adopted its decision while the majority of deputies rejecting it were absent. He added that the government had made only a very few concessions for adopting the decision.

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Glazyev said he believed that if the government continued its budget policy the industrial output in 1995 could be 10-14 percent of that in 1994 and investments in 1995 could be 8-12 percent of those in 1994. He said this would mean that the policy of stabilization would not be carried out as it would be impossible to bring the monthly inflation rate down to 2.5- 3 percent. He said the best result then would be to keep the monthly inflation rate within 4-5 percent.

The DPR faction and the State Duma Committee on Economic Policy have put forward an alternative scenario for social-economic development of the country in 1995, Glazyev said. He said he believed that this concept would pave the way to putting an end to the decline in industrial output.

State Duma Discusses 1995 Miltary Budget

LD2212001194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2052 GMT 21 Dec 94

[Video report by unidentified correspondent; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Financing still remains the main problem facing the Russian Armed Forces. There are not enough funds not only for the upkeep of peacekeeping forces, for example, in Abkhazia, but also for routine training to ensure combat readiness.

The State Duma deputies discussed the military budget for next year behind closed doors today. Various figures were proposed, for example:

[Begin Nikolay Bezborodov recording, deputy chairman of State Duma Defense Committee, identified by caption] In order to solve all the problems facing the Armed Forces, the Defense Ministry has asked for 111 [figure as heard] trillion rubles. But the government plans to allocate 45 trillion rubles to the Armed Forces and defense industry. [end recording]

[Correspondent] No final decision was adopted at today's session. But if that happens, the military are still not sure that the state will transfer money for military needs. This year has been a good example of that.

[Begin Vasiliy Vorobyev recording, head of Main Directorate for Military Budget and Financing, identified by caption] In practice, as of today the debt amounts to 15.4 trillion rubles. Partial financing, above all, does irremediable damage to the military service. [end recording]

Duma May Pass Budget; Slash in Defense Spending Possible

MK2212095094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 22 Dec 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Boris Boyko under the "State Duma Plenary Meeting" rubric: "Budget Almost Adopted"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A notable event has occurred in the Russian budget process. After the conciliatory commission of the State Duma and the government completed work on the draft budget, the adoption of the 1995 draft budget in first reading has become a realistic possibility: in several rounds of the State Duma's voting, the draft each time fell short of approval by only 15 votes. As a result, it was decided to extend the conciliatory commission's work for another day so the budget can finally be adopted today.

In fact, the prediction made the day before by Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays that the draft budget may well be adopted nearly came true yesterday—the draft was really only one step away from being passed. After hearing the military-industrial sector's budget requests at the closed-door meeting, the deputies, at an open session, discussed the results of work done by the conciliatory commission, which was set up 25 November to finalize the draft budget. A report on the results was delivered by Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov and Mikhail Zadornov, chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee. Both commission cochairmen emphasized in unison that as a result of decisions made by the commission the draft economic forecast and 1995 budget "have become more realistic in nature." Among crucial agreements on the draft budget they singled out the increase of the minimum wage to 34,400 rubles [R] from 1 March 1995 (initially the State Duma proposed R54,500) without indexing wages at budget-financed sectors of the economy (because this would boost the budget deficit by R18 trillion). The commission also thought it advisable to raise import duty rates on selected commodities from 5.6 to 7.5 percent and at the same time to raise oil export duties to increase budget revenue. The amount of foreign borrowing to finance the budget deficit was slashed by $400 million. Taken in combination, decisions made by the commission cut the budget deficit by R180 billion, or from 7.8 to 7.7 percent of GDP.

Following the increase of the dollar's estimated exchange rate to 3,500 rubles per dollar, the foreign borrowing's share in deficit financing rose to R40 trillion, while the amount of domestic borrowing dropped correspondingly (it will be recalled that the government proposed that this part of the deficit be financed by issuing treasury bonds). At the same time, it was decided that the Central Bank would buy R12 trillion worth of securities on the secondary market.

Zadornov said that two differences remained in the commission's decision till the last moment—should tax-free labor remuneration funds be limited to four or six times the minimum wage and whether the Agrarian Party's proposal that the special 2-percent tax to support priority sectors be retained in 1995 should be consented to. In fact, precisely these differences became the main sticking point during yesterday's budget debate. It was effectively a recurrence of the situation that came about last week during the consideration of a tax package.

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Federal Assembly

Finance Minister Presents Budget Projections

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According to Panskov, the Chechen crisis has already cost Russia 400 billion roubles for the time being. The bulk of the sum has been spent to finance the army, he noted.

Duma Rejects First Draft Proposal

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The commission is to finalize the draft budget with due regard for remarks and suggestions moved by members of Duma factions during today's debates.

Budget Discussion Postponed

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Commenting on today's vote, lower house chairman Ivan Rybkin said the only way for deputies now is to pass a federal law on public spending coverage for the first quarter of 1995. Nonetheless, Rybkin proposed that the conciliatory commission of government members and the Duma's faction and committee delegates continue work on the budget so as the debate is resumed on December 23.

DPR To Insist Duma Adopt Factions Budget Proposals

LD2112223194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1924 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 21 (Interfax)—The parliamentary faction of the Democratic Party of Russia (DPR) has a "special opinion" on the decision of the conciliatory commission completing the draft federal budget for 1995 which will be submitted for consideration by the State Duma. The DPR faction will insist on its proposals, leader of the DPR parliamentary faction Sergey Glazyev told a press conference.

He said that the conciliatory commission had adopted its decision while the majority of deputies rejecting it were absent. He added that the government had made only a very few concessions for adopting the decision.

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Gennadiy Kulik, conciliation commission member, insisted yet another time on retaining the special tax, while the government yet another time supported the proposal. Sergey Shulgin, conciliation commission cochairman, for his part, opposed the introduction of a limit of four—not six—times the minimum wage, citing a decision by the conciliation commission on taxes whereby this minimum must be raised to as many as eight times the minimum wage, with the tax to be abolished altogether in 1996.

Finally, the budget was unequivocally endorsed by "Russia's Choice," the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, and "Women of Russia." The draft was once again sent to the conciliation commission. Meanwhile, Anatoliy Chubays once again expressed his confidence that the budget would be passed today. [Article includes following boxed commentary by the Political Department]

The military has proposed that the State Duma add to next year's budget defense appropriations the amount that has not been released to them this year. By the Defense Ministry's estimates, the amount is R8.7 trillion, of which the Finance Ministry has acknowledged only 2 trillion, however. If this does not happen and if the military budget is passed in the amount proposed by the government—R45.2 trillion—spending cuts against 1994 will reach 40-45 percent in real terms. Therefore, there will be a shortage of money not only to maintain the army, but even to reduce it or to carry out reform, the only thing that could help cut defense spending. In principle, the Chechen crisis could be a good pretext for demanding an increase in defense appropriations. The power structures have already spent about R400 billion of "their own" money, but they cannot expect the deputies to take that into account—the parliament holds a negative view on military operations in the Caucasus. As for the president, he has already demonstrated by example of this year's budget that his political sympathy with Pavel Grachev does not reach as far as financial relations with the Defense Ministry.

Duma Decree Criticizes Privatization Process

MM2112145794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Dec 94 First Edition p 2

[State Duma Decree No. 378-I SD "On the Results of the First Phase of the Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises in the Russian Federation," signed by State Duma Chairman Rybkin, dated 9 December 1994, and carried under the rubric "Federal Assembly-Parliament of the Russian Federation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma decrees that:

1. The results of the first (check) phase of privatization shall be deemed unsatisfactory.

2. It shall be deemed necessary to carry out substantial amendments to privatization policy, since the results of the first phase do not correspond to the main aims of the socioeconomic reforms.

Privatization policy should ensure:

Increased efficiency in the work of privatized enterprises;

The raising of investment with a view to developing production;

The bringing into line with the Russian Federation Constitution of the rights enjoyed by organs of state power in the Russian Federation, organs of state power in Russian Federation components, and organs of local self-government;

The molding of effective owners.

3. The proposal shall be made that the Russian Federation Government:

set up a joint working group to draw up a draft state program for the privatization of state and municipal enterprises in the Russian Federation after 1 July 1994;

Include in the working group representatives of deputies' associations in the State Duma;

Submit a draft of the aforesaid state program for examination by the State Duma no later than 20 December 1994.

4. The State Duma shall consider its priority tasks to be to adopt acts of legislation ensuring the administration of state property (including blocks of shares in privatized enterprises held by the state), regulating the management of federal property, streamlining the enterprise bankruptcy procedure, and making the relevant changes to existing legislation to bring it into line with the Russian Federation Constitution.

5. The Russian Federation President shall be instructed to suspend the edict "On the Basic Provisions of the State Program for the Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises in the Russian Federation After 1 July 1994" until the State Duma adopts the federal law "On the State Program for the Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises in the Russian Federation After 1 July 1994."

[signed] I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma

Moscow, 9 December 1994

No. 378-I SD

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Appoints Representative in Chechnya

MM2012130594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Dec 94 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation president's edict and statute on Russian Federation president's fully empowered representative in the Chechen Republic]

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[FBIS Translated Text]

Russian Federation President's Edict no. 2201 "On Russian Federation President's Fully Empowered Representative in the Chechen Republic"

1. Approve the attached statute on the Russian Federation president's fully empowered representative in the Chechen Republic.

2. The Russian Federation president's Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information must provide the Russian Federation president's fully empowered representative with the relevant communications in exercising his powers.

3. This edict enters into force from the day it is signed.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, Moscow, Kremlin, 18 December 1994.

Statute on Russian Federation President's Fully Empowered Representative in the Chechen Republic, Approved by the Russian Federation President's 18 December 1994 Edict

1. The Russian Federation president's fully empowered representative in the Chechen Republic (hereinafter referred to as the Russian Federation president's fully empowered representative) is the official who represents the Russian president in the Chechen Republic.

2. The Russian Federation president's fully empowered representative is appointed and released from the post by the Russian Federation president and is subordinate to the Russian Federation president and is personally responsible to him for his activity.

3. The Russian Federation president's fully empowered representative is guided in his activity by the Russian Federation Constitution, the Russian Federation laws, the decisions of the Russian Federation president and Russian Federation Government, and this Statute.

4. The Russian Federation president's fully empowered representative cannot be a member of political parties and mass sociopolitical movements and does not have the right to engage in entrepreneurial activity.

5. The Russian Federation president's fully empowered representative:

a) represents the Russian Federation president in relations with organs of state power and officials, organs of local self-management, enterprises, organizations, military formations, public organizations, and citizens on the territory of the Chechen Republic;

b) takes part in coordinating the activity of the federal organs of executive power and the organs of executive power of the Russian Federation components in normalizing the situation and restoring constitutional legality and law and order in the Chechen Republic and leads officials and structural subdivisions of the federal organs of executive power appointed or created for the purpose;

c) collaborates with representatives of the Russian Federation president in the krays and oblasts of the North Caucasus region and coordinates their activity in resolving questions connected with the normalization of the situation in the chechen Republic;

d) informs the Russian Federation president of the execution by the organs of state power of the Chechen Republic and other republics, krays, and oblasts of the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation laws and decisions of the Russian Federation president and the Russian Federation Government on questions connected with the stabilization of the situation in the Chechen Republic;

e) has the right to request and receive from the federal organs of executive power and the organs of executive power of the republics, krays, and oblasts of the North Caucasus region the necessary information, documents, and materials on questions connected with the execution of the functions assigned him;

f) submits to the Russian Federation president analytical and other information on economic, social, and political processes in the Chechen Republic and makes the relevant proposals;

g) submits to the relevant organs of state power representations on violations of edicts and directives of the Russian Federation president and decrees and directives of the Russian Federation Government and when necessary informs the competent organs of this. These representations are examined by the relevant organs of executive power within 10 days;

h) has the right to take part in the work of the Chechen Republic's organs of executive power;

i) makes suggestions for drafts of normative acts concerning questions of normalizing the situation in the Chechen Republic and the North Caucasus region as a whole to the Russian Federation president and the Russian Federation Government;

j) exercises other powers on instructions from the Russian Federation president.

6. The Russian Federation president's fully empowered representative has his own working apparatus, approves his own structure and staff within the limits of the funds earmarked for him, and appoints and dismisses his employees.

7. Financial, information analysis, and organizational and technical backup for the activity of the Russian Federation president's fully empowered representative and his apparatus is assigned to the Russian Federation president's staff.

Unidentified Aircraft Drop Weapons, Money in Chechnya

LD2112221894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1307 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 21 Dec—The situation in the Chechen Republic has become more acute, the actions of the illegal armed formations and mercenaries have been stepped up, the fighting in the suburbs of Groznyy is continuing. This is evidenced by the reports that have come in to ITAR-TASS at the present time from the correspondents of agencies and other sources. [passage omitted]

Monetary advances in foreign currency are generously given out to recruits, and the latter are promised that they will be armed with the latest automatic weapons after they cross the border. All those detained have been furnished with documents containing the relevant visas. The documents were issued by official institutions in the place of residence.

Over the last three days several containers holding weapons, ammunition, and large sums of money have been dropped by unidentified aircraft in the mountainous areas of the Chechen Republic. Precisely in this connection, a decision has also been adopted on closing the air space along the frontiers with Azerbaijan and Georgia. Today, the frontier guards have stopped several attempts by unidentified transport aircraft to violate the air space. [passage omitted]

Fighting Continues, Troops Hold 'Human Shield'

LD2112204994

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian at 1900 GMT on 21 December broadcasts a two-minute round-up of reports on Chechen developments, in which correspondent Vladimir Varfolomeyev quotes Gasan Gusayev, deputy procurator general of Chechnya as saying: "Battles started up again this evening in the region of Petropavlovskaya; shooting could be heard from there for three hours." Gusayev was quoted as saying that "at about 1800 this evening some bombs were dropped on the outskirts of Groznyy; the damage caused is being investigated."

Continuing the round-up Varfolomeyev says: "Moscow has information that the Chechen leadership is preparing for the eventuality of withdrawing its fighters into the mountains and at the same time is trying to organize combat actions at the rear of the Russian Army.

"According to the Foreign Ministry, Groznyy is attempting to obtain support from abroad, mainly from Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Unidentified helicopters were reported over Chechnya today. At the same time General Sinitsyn, chief of the general staff of Russia's air defense forces, asserts that Chechnya's airspace is fully under control. There are between two and four supersonic MiG aircraft in the air around the clock to provide an immediate response.

"According to reconnaissance groups, Chechen units are holding about 2,000 Russian citizens in a settlement not far from Groznyy as a human shield."

Dudayev Appeals For International 'Pressure'

LD2112173094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Pavel Guskov, our correspondent in the northern Caucasus, has reported about certain documents circulated in Groznyy by Dzhokhar Dudayev and his supporters.

[Begin Guskov recording] Four documents have been received over the past 24 hours by foreign journalists in Groznyy for publication in the papers and journals they represent. Two of them are addresses by Dzhokhar Dudayev in which, first, they appeal to the United Nations, the Security Council, and the governments of all countries to put pressure on the Russian leadership with the object, the authors of the addresses claim, of returning to civilized methods of settling disputes and preventing an escalation of hostilities on Chechen territory. In the second address, Dzhokhar Dudayev asks the governments of Turkey and other Muslim countries to provide temporary shelter for refugees—the women, elderly, and children of Chechens.

The two other documents have been released by the parliament here under the signature of its chairman, Akhyad Idigov. The first one, which is addressed to the parliaments of the world, is in its main points an analogy of Dzhokhar Dudayev's address, which has already been mentioned. In a telegram to the Russian State Duma chairman, the leader of the Chechen parliamentarians once again calls for an authorized delegation of deputies to be sent to Groznyy to continue the talks process and end the bloodshed. Akhyad Idigov claims that the Russian State Duma has still not replied to his appeal sent several days ago. [end recording]

Chechen Vice President: Russians Using Chemical Weapons

LD2112200894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Oleh Kruk]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—"Chechen Republic Vice President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev has appealed to international organizations not to send any humanitarian aid to Groznyy, as the city is blocked by Russian forces, and it is they who get everything," Algirdas Endriukaitis, Lithuanian Seimas deputy in charge of the parliamentary group liasing between Lithuania and Chechnya, has told UNIAN after he telephoned Groznyy today.

The vice president also said approximately 20 armored vehicles and two helicopters of the Russia forces were destroyed today in combat operations in the conflict zone. It appears from a radio message intercepted that the Russians are short of first aid dressing materials.

Algirdas Endriukaitis added that Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev had also asked him to inform the international

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community that the Russian Army was using chemical weapons—namely, a gas that causes damage to skin—against the hostile forces.

Two Battalions of Russian Marines To Arrive in Chechnya

LD2112212394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1924 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 21. (Interfax)—Two battalions of Russian marines will arrive in the war zone in Chechnya, a highly placed defense official told Interfax.

These elite troops will fight in the vanguard of the Russian force which entered Chechnya on December 11.

The official said he did not envy the mercenaries who would be in the way of the marines.

Russian Air Defense Troops Control Chechen Air Space

LD2112212494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1924 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 21 (Interfax)—Russian air defense units have the Chechen air borders and airspace under control, Colonel General Viktor Sinitsyn, air defense chief of staff, told Interfax Wednesday.

He said that the flights of any aircraft are monitored in that region.

Sinitsyn said that powerful ground-and aircraft-based radars could detect even aircraft flying at an altitude as low as 100 meters.

He added that two to six Su-27 and MiG-31 jets were continuously in the air for visual reconnaissance and "immediate response."

'New Scenario' Considered To Resolve Chechen Conflict

LD2112222594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1924 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Dec 21 (Interfax) - A new scenario is being considered to furnish a realistic legal basis for talks between Russia's federal authorities and Chechen authorities, reliable sources closes to top government echelons have said.

This scenario is based on proposals by the former Prime Minister of the Chechen republic Yaragiy Mamadayev, submitted to Russia's federal authorities. It is confined to the abolition of the dictatorial regime by restoring the constitutional government and parliament disbanded by Dudayev and elections to republican bodies of power in October 1995.

The legitimacy of future bodies of power would be recognized by the Council of the Federation. They would become a third, conciliatory party to the internal conflict in Chechnya and legitimate representatives of the Chechen people at negotiations with Moscow.

Chechen Procuracy Says 5 Bombs Dropped on Center of Groznyy

LD2112222394 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 2200 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At around midnight on Wednesday, Russian aircraft dropped five bombs on Groznyy, an AFP correspondent reports from the Chechen capital. According to him, the strike was delivered against the center of the town. The administration of Chechnya's chief procurator also confirmed that the bombing had occurred. You will recall that the Russian side warned on Wednesday of the possibility of a bomb strike against the Kavkaz hotel, which is located opposite the presidential palace in Groznyy.

Chechen Policy Seen As Old Communist Methods

MK2112142294 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No.49-50, 21-27 Dec 94 pp 1,2 (Signed to press 20 Dec 94)

[Aleksandr Yevlakhov report: "Turn Back, Time!"]

[Text] Symptomatic, isn't it? A nearly forgotten introductory musical motif and the news program's former name—"Vremya" ["Time"]—is back on our television screens. This was done, we were kindly told, of course, to take into account numerous requests by TV viewers. It is hard to say what those viewers' motives were. Either high prices of conservatory tickets, which prevent those who wish to do so from listening to the really good music by Sviridov. Or they simply wished the already established contents of the "Ostankino" news program to be underpinned by an appropriate form. So as to eliminate any doubts: the smiling—despite the numerous casualties of a military operation—announcer tells us the official point of view. Just as they used to announce the entry of our Army into Afghanistan, martial law in Poland, or the arrival of a geriatric general secretary at an electoral ward (in fact, the filming was done at a hospital ward).

Or, maybe, we were simply too hasty in marking the tenth anniversary of Orwell's "1984," a year that never came, with its slogans "Freedom Is Slavery," "War Is Peace," "Ignorance Is Power?" At any rate, the authorities recently tried hard to implement these slogans as if it were really 1984, not 1994, on the calendar. They even tried to set up an analogue of the "Ministry of the Truth" on Chechnya in the form of the Provisional Information Center. State Press Committee Chairman Sergey Gryzunov, who was appointed its chairman, turned out to be even more "provisional" than his center, however. After just two weeks of work he was replaced with Valentin Sergeyev, chief of the government press service. Did he do a bad job of it? Not at all. It was just that the press

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(with the exception of state-run publications) preferred to use different sources, so there proved to be no demand for the center's creations. Rephrasing a well-known joke about an elephant at the zoo, one might say: "He can give it, sure, but who will eat it?"

Indeed, who can "swallow" the canard regarding military hardware allegedly seized by Chechnya without authorization, the hardware with which unlawful formations are presently equipped? The "Ministry of the Truth" simply assumes that now no one remembers anything about the actual goings-on of 1992. Meanwhile, the hardware was not seized by anybody, but was turned over to Dudayev by none other than our Defense Ministry. Which was documented in a special memo of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office. Who among the self-respecting mass media would trust official reports about the executive authorities's desire to resolve the conflict in Chechnya by political means while the war is already under way and civilians, not "members of bandit formations," are being killed? So they do not.

They DO NOT TRUST them because Chechnya is not the issue after all. Only owing to a concurrence of circumstances did this tiny Caucasus republic find itself at the spot where the interests of two diametrically opposed camps converged, however strange it might seem at first sight. One of them has a vested interest in the life tenure of the current president; the other is anxious to remove him from office at any cost, without waiting for the 1996 elections. For both—the former and the latter—the worse, the better.

Only in this situation can one either impeach B. Yeltsin, or impose a state of emergency all over the country, thus ruling out the next election. For this reason developments are proceeding according to the worst-case scenario and peace talks—in Vladikavkaz, Mozdok, or anywhere else—have as little chance of success as talks at St. Daniel Monastery or the Ilyumzhinov mission slightly more than one year ago.

Bets have been placed on psychological war, the ratcheting up of hysteria, and the use of provocations, which is not surprising: the same cadres are in charge of planning the operation. In October 1993, the mythical weapon of intimidation was "Supreme Soviet snipers," whom no one has ever seen, now it is "Caucasian hit-men" who have allegedly left for the capital and other cities to carry out terrorist attacks.

Let us recall the sequence in which the "threat" was mounting. Right before the start of a massive operation in Chechnya information circulated on alleged mines at editorial buildings—"Pressa" in Moscow and Lenizdat in St. Petersburg. Last week, the potential targets of terrorist attacks were railway stations, which made nearly the entire transportation militia of the Northwest "bend over backwards." But one cannot always act like the boy who cried "Wolf" too often, so the scenario calls for an absolutely real wolf. Hence, according to the logic of the developments, a number of absolutely real explosions must occur somewhere. Maybe, their perpetrators will also be found—a few Chechens would "confess voluntarily" that they did it on General Dudayev's orders. Subsequently, "the indignant population" would carry out anti- Caucasian retaliation actions on marketplaces, which would give sufficient grounds to impose a state of emergency "at workers' requests."

Certain problems might crop up, however. The easiest thing of all is to impose a state of emergency in the province. But this will achieve little. Most importantly, it must be introduced in Moscow, because this will automatically make it possible to close down the opposition press and to impose censorship. To impose it on the capital, however, which has the experience of August 1991 and October 1993, whose population is particularly receptive to mobilization calls, and which has the heaviest concentration of the economy and financial capital independent from the state, will be the hardest thing to do.

There is also another snag. The more unconstitutional the actions by the executive authority, the quicker resistance forces will spring up. The proof of that is the swift realignment of virtually all political forces (except for the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia), and the evolution of V. Shumeyko, upper chamber speaker, and Ye. Gaydar, leader of the Russia's Democratic Choice party. The worst-case scenario might well not be realized. But one thing is clear. Presently, there is a party of confrontation in this country. There is a party of war. What is lacking, though, is a party of the reforms for which the country had to go through the events of 1990-1993.

Text of Federation Council Decree on Chechnya

MM2112093194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Dec 94 First Edition p 6

[Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council Decree No. 307-1FC, signed by Federation Council Chairman Shumeyko and dated 17 December 1994: "On the Situation in the Chechen Republic"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having discussed the situation prevailing in the Chechen Republic following the adoption of Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council Decree No. 291-1FC "On the Situation in the Chechen Republic" of 8 December 1994 and the Russian Federation president's 12 December 1994 address to Federal Assembly Federation Council and State Duma deputies, the Federation Council notes that the Russian Federation president and the Russian Federation Government are taking measures to normalize the situation in and around the Chechen Republic, including regulating the activity of federal organs of state power in defending the Russian Federation's territorial integrity and security and the rights and freedoms of citizens. At the same time, no real progress in resolving the crisis has yet been achieved.

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On the basis of the above, the Federation Council decrees that:

1. It be noted that the Russian Federation president and the Russian Federation Government failed to take on board in good time the proposals set out in Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council Decree No. 291-1FC of 8 December 1994—specifically, the proposal in Point 2 on the nonuse of force on Chechen Republic territory pending the adoption of a different decision by the relevant organs of state power in accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution and Russian Federation legislation.

2. It be proposed that the Russian Federation president take measures to immediately end combat operations by all parties and to continue the negotiating process at a higher level of government delegations on the basis of the principles of preserving the integrity of the Russian Federation and providing an opportunity for the people of the Chechen Republic to freely express their will.

3. There be support for the Russian Federation president's proposal to set up a Oversight Commission to monitor the observance of citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms during the implementation of decisions to restore the constitutional system on Chechen Republic territory, this commission to include (observing parity with the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma) Deputies R.G. Abdulatipov, V.K. Bulgakov, A.V. Dolgolaptev, A.L. Yepimakhov, I.M. Kostoyev, Yu.Ye. Lodkin, V.I. Ovsyannikov, G.M. Oynvid, V.G. Tarasenko, A.A. Titkin, P.S. Shteyn, and P.P. Shirshov on behalf of the Federation Council.

4. It be proposed that the Russian Federation president address Federation Council deputies on the question of resolving the situation in the Chechen Republic.

5. It be demanded, in line with the Russian Federation Constitution, that all warring factions in the Chechen Republic immediately disarm all illegal military formations and cease and desist from any provocative actions.

6. The Federation Council Committee for Security and Defense Issues, the Federation Council Committee for Constitutional Legislation and Judicial and Legal Issues, and the Federation Council Committee for Federation Affairs, the Federation Treaty, and Regional Policy be instructed to draw up proposals on the legal regulation of the use of Russian Federation Armed Forces on Russian Federation territory.

[signed] V.F. Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council

Moscow, 17 December 1994

No. 307-1FC

Cossacks Raising Troops To Help 'Restore Order' in Chechnya

LD2212053794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0516 GMT 22 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow 22 Dec (TASS)—Terek and Kuban Cossacks have begun to raise four battalions for participation in the process of restoring constitutional order in the Chechen Republic, a spokesman at the Russian Government's Provisional Information Centre told ITAR-TASS with reference to Colonel Vladimir Naumov, Ataman (chieftain) of the Cossacks' Union of Russia.

Grachev Arrives in Mozdok, Meets With Yegorov, Stepashin

LD2312123594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0652 GMT 22 Dec 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday evening Defense Minister Pavel Grachev arrived in Mozdok. He had a conference with Deputy Prime Minister Yegorov and Director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service Stepashin. The arrival of fresh Russian military subunits and equipment into the region is noted.

Chechen 'Militants' Prepare Retreat Routes to Mountains

LD2212091494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text]The situation in Chechnya remains complicated. The government press service reports that the Chechen leadership is preparing retreat routes to the mountain areas for the militants. Along the retreat routes strong points are being set up and mixed minefields laid down. The Chechen command is trying to organize combat operations in the rear of the Russian troops by using sabotage groups, groups of snipers, and mobile battle formations. The number of cases of looting and robbery in Groznyy has increased. Enterprises and residential buildings are being mined.

Chechen Spokesman Says 150 Civilians Killed Overnight

LD2212100494 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 0925 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 22 Dec—Aslanbek Dadayev, deputy head of the CHECHENPRESS news agency, has told the IBERIA news agency from Groznyy that the town of Groznyy was shelled last night. About 50 shells landed there as a result of which about 150 civilians have been killed. At the moment battles continue 10 kilometers outside Groznyy.

No Government Confirmation of Raid on Groznyy

LD2212094994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0900 GMT 22 Dec 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

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[FBIS Translated Text] As INTERFAX reports, the Chechen capital was again subjected to air raids last night. Planes carried out rocket and bomb strikes on the center and the outskirts of Groznyy. At the same time, there was no change in the positions of the sides on the confrontation line north of the town. We asked the Russian government's press service about this; the pess service neither confirmed nor denied this information.

Armed Group of Gamsakhurdia Supporters Arrive in Groznyy

LD2212095694 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 0925 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy. 22 Dec—According to IBERIA news agency, an armed group of 300 men has arrived in Groznyy to help General Dzhokhar Dudayev. The group consists of the combatants of the armed forces of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia's supporters. It is not yet known how these combatants arrived in Groznyy. According to unverified information, they arrived from the territory of Azerbaijan.

Chechen Air Space Closed; Aircraft in Constant Patrols

LD2212121494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Dec 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian air defense troops have completely sealed off Chechnya's air space. According to information from Col. Gen. Viktor Sinitsyn, chief of the air defence troops staff, from two to six Su-27 and Mig-31 aircraft are flying round the clock for reconnaissance and immediate response.

Shumeyko Says Use of Force in Chechnya 'Justified Measure'

LD2212113694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1122 GMT 22 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Nechayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 22 TASS—The use of force in the Chechen Republic for the sake of protecting its residents from gangsterism and restoring constitutional order is a justified measure, Chairman of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko believes.

Speaking before the diplomatic corps here today, he said that the Federation Council had determined its stand with regard to Chechnya. It consists of three items: the protection of civilians against violence even by the use of force; talks with chechnya only as a subject of the federation; the protection of the republic against outside interference.

Dudayev Regime Trying to Buy Ammunition Externally

LD2212124294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, Dec 22 (Interfax)—Well-informed sources report that the Dudayev regime is running low on ammunition and is taking urgent efforts to make purchases outside the republic. Large sums have been earmarked for this purpose.

According to reports, detachments of armed Mojahedin were spotted in northern Azerbaijan. They are likely to have penetrated into Chechnya via Dagestan.

On Thursday [22 December] official Groznyy made attempts over the radio to spread an appeal to Caucasian Moslems to come to Chechnya's aid.

Duma's Chechnya Chief Denies Rumors of Massive Desertions

MK2212100094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov under the "Information" rubric: "Duma Ad Hoc Headquarters Confident in Russian Troops' Fighting Spirit and Denies Rumors of Massive Desertions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Valentin Kovalev, head of the Duma operational headquarters on the situation in Chechnya and deputy chairman of the Federal Assembly's lower chamber, shared with journalists—with help from the deputies Nikolay Bezborodov and Yuriy Rodionov—the latest information on the situation in the conflict zone. Mr. Kovalev advised that the Russian troops lost 11 men killed, 7 wounded, and 5 missing in a clash outside the village of Petropavlovskaya on the night of 20-21 December. Nevertheless, Valentin Kovalev vouched, Russian troops continue to fulfill the assigned missions with high morale. Speaking about the existing problems, the operational headquarters head deemed it necessary to single out some of the drawbacks of logistic support as well as a certain lack of reliable information to the soldiers.

Yuriy Rodionov confirmed his colleague's words, noting, however, that the Russian fighters are not especially thrilled about conducting military operations against their fellow countrymen. Mr. Rodionov assured the journalists that the Russian soldiers are making every effort to "preserve civilian lives to the maximum." The deputies resolutely denied all rumors about massive desertions from the troops now on the territory of Chechnya.

Nevertheless, the deputies believe that the Chechen crisis should be resolved by peaceful means. Notably, according to Mr. Bezborodov, talks should be preceded by a cease-fire and the surrender of arms by the Dudayev forces.

Yeltsin Rights Adviser Warns of Imminent Bombing of Groznyy

MK2212094094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Yelena Tregubova under general headline: "The War in Chechnya Drags Out and Gets More Expensive"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Kovalev said yesterday in a telephone conversation from Groznyy that the information spread by the Russian command about mujahidin being based in the Groznyy "Kavkaz" hotel was "obviously designed to find cause for new strikes on downtown Groznyy." Kovalev explained that the Kavkaz hotel is located next to the presidential palace and is in immediate proximity to densely populated residential apartments. Sergey Kovalev is convinced that in the event of such bombing the "entire responsibility for the death of peaceful civilians will fall on the Russian command." Meanwhile the Russian command promised to bomb this hotel and even warned that citizens who have nothing to do with the Dudayev regime must leave the building. He said that on the evening of 20 December in the settlement of Artemovskiy Elevator, where there were no "Dudayev formations," a Russian army bomb or shell hit a house where local residents were hiding their children from artillery bombardment, killing five children and wounding three who are in a Groznyy hospital in critical condition. The human rights ombudsman maintains that reports in the Russian mass media about "Dudayev's formations intensifying their activity" do not correspond to reality, and "the offensive initiative is displayed only by Russian troops." Yesterday during a conversation with SEGODNYA's correspondent at approximately 1800 Kovalev said that "bombing seems to be starting: Aircraft are flying over the city and several explosions have been heard."

'Cruelty' of Foreign 'Mercenaries' in Chechnya Criticized

MM2212084994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Government Press Service Reports"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The situation in the Chechen Republic was examined at a conference held yesterday morning of members of the government and the Security Council, and representatives of the Russian Presidential Staff chaired by Oleg Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government. The Russian Federation Government Press Service report on this says:

"The conference noted the sharp galvanization of the actions of illegal armed formations. Last night they took measures to strengthen the defense of many population centers. Heavy arms are being placed directly in apartment blocks, which have been turned into fortified positions. Attempts are being made to drive Russian servicemen out of settlements where MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and Russian Federation Defense Ministry troop subunits are based.

"Sabotage groups and snipers are operating everywhere, resulting in increased losses among the servicemen. More than 40 locals, including Chechens, have been killed by sniper fire. Because of this, village populations do not dare to go outside.

"Following precision bombing raids, several fortified positions and adjoining blocks deserted by their residents have been destroyed in Groznyy. Residents are leaving the city in haste.

"The particular cruelty of the actions of mercenary gangs of Afghan mojahedin and Ukrainian ultranationalists is noted. The Press Service is authorized to state that the participation of foreign mercenaries in the bloody atrocities on the territory of the Chechen Republic—which is part and parcel of the Russian Federation—could complicate Russia's relations with the countries continuing to supply the mercenaries."

Deputies: Hostilities To End 'At All Costs'

MM2212093794 Moscow TRUD in Russian 22 Dec 94 pp 1-2

[Roundup by Vadim Karpov: "Bloody Harvest of War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of State Duma deputies is in Groznyy to objectively assess the situation, see what is happening, analyze it, and propose a way out of the crisis. S.A. Kovalev, L.N. Petrovskiy, V.V. Borshchov, M.M. Molostvov, and O.P. Orlov, an expert from the Russian president's Human Rights Commission, are visiting particular hot spots where there has been shooting and where rockets and bombs are falling. We telephoned them. Here, without any commentary, is what they said.

Sergey Kovalev:

"The city is being bombed. Almost constantly. The shelling in the outskirts of town has currently stopped. But last night—the night of the 19th—Groznyy was bombarded. The oil institute building was severely damaged. As was the state security building. But the main thing is that 20 apartment blocks in the residential part of town were destroyed. There have been casualties. And lots of them among the civilian population. According to our figures 352 people were wounded and 16 taken to the morgue between 26 November and 19 December.

"That is in Groznyy. We need to take account of the fact that Muslims are buried the same day. In other words, Muslim corpses are not taken to the morgue. Another 26 people were killed in the outskirts of town. But those are official figures.

"The information disseminated by Russian TV—particularly the 'Ostankino' channel—is inaccurate, we believe, and biased. They talk about 15 units of armored equipment held by the gunmen being put out of action and about fortified areas being bombed. We did not see this destroyed armored equipment. What is more, in actual fact the war is being fought against an armed people rather than 'bandit formations.' A people may be wrong, they may suffer from illusions and fantasies about their leaders. But they are a people. And we should not fight them...."

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Leonid Petrovskiy:

"I see the solution as being primarily to stop the hostilities. Troop movements should be stopped—the troops should all stay where they are. And then phased talks should be held. Military talks first, then political talks. And we should not treat Dudayev along the lines that 'you have to turn up, you are supposed to be....' We need to understand that Dudayev is a Caucasian.... We need compromise, we need talks, not hostilities. We need peace. This is something that the officers and men we have spoken to here are saying. They are asking bluntly—'Why have we been sent to fight?'

"And we should stop telling lies. In the past three days we have not seen a single dead gunman, but we have seen wrecked districts. And we have seen road-cleaning machines that had been hit by bombs. Who are we killing? After all, it is only civilians who live on the outskirts of town. They are milkmaids, shepherds, machine operators.... Russians have been among those killed. Unlike the Chechens, they could not go to their relatives in the mountains. They simply have nowhere to go. We altogether need to think about how our state politicians are acting and running things. We need to get an idea of the damage that is being done to Russia here....

"I would ask you to use your prestigious newspaper to convey our appeal to soldiers' mothers. You must now fight for your children. And not afterward, when you try to win concessions for your crippled sons, asking for them to be given wheelchairs or pensions. You should know that there will not be any funerals in Russia immediately. It will all happen later. According to certain information, we are already talking about hundreds of deaths.... And what if Groznyy is stormed?"

Mikhail Molostvov:

"It is important to end military operations against the city. We should not be bombing residential areas. Our military (and they have said this to us) are trying not to touch the civilian population. But by no means everything is clear in the fog and from the air.

"Our media are talking about 'neutralizing guerrilla forces,' but what we can see is smoke spiraling from high explosive bombs that have hit apartment blocks. No doubt they wanted to hit a 'strategic target'—the TV center—but they actually hit....

"I personally have never seen anything like it since wartime. It was the same in Rzhev and Vyazma. But that was through the efforts of enemy occupiers. Here it has been thanks to our pilots.

"Talks. And only talks. Otherwise there will be deadlock. And there has been enough lying. I have heard that Russians are allegedly not being released, so that they can be used as hostages. But I have not seen anything like that. I talked with an elderly Ukrainian married couple. Their home is right in the path of our military forces. Their homestead has been destroyed, and they have to pasture their goat in secret for fear of bullets and bombs. The old man joked that it did not matter—they would get by. But the old lady was crying and asking us to protect them. You can think what you like about the Dudayev regime, but what have this Ukrainian husband and wife to do with anything? We will have to pay for this kind of mistake. And pay a high price for a long time."

Valeriy Borshchov:

"What concerns me most is that there are loads of lies at the moment coming from both politicians and the media. This is demoralizing everyone. The men do not want to fight. And they are saying that the problem needs to be solved by the politicians—using political methods. Groznyy is ready to compromise—they do not want to commit suicide either. The talks process is difficult and tortuous, but possible. And for some reason the way is being blocked.

"Even if our military took Groznyy, would that solve the problem? To all intents and purposes it is a tragedy for future generations as well. Why should we plant a 'time bomb' for our children and grandchildren?"

Oleg Orlov:

"The bombing of residential areas simply cannot be justified. The shelling of villages can still be justified in some respects—gunmen often hide out there. But these are civilian areas. There are craters three meters deep. What is the solution? To stop the war. It is nothing but lies when people say that the 'negotiating process has been exhausted.' But we need to stop the slaughter. Then we need to think about how to organize a referendum, a poll of the population. And how to talk about Chechnya's future on the basis of the results...."

...The deputies represent different political factions in the Duma. Each of them has their own political and ideological convictions. But, as you will have noted, they all agree on one thing—hostilities need to be stopped at all costs. We would like to think that the views of these people—who are right in the thick of things—will be heeded and taken into account. Unfortunately, time is still working in favor of war....

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International Affairs

Kuchma Expresses Concern Over Chechnya

LD2112182694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Interviewed by UKRINFORM and Interfax correspondents, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has stated that the Chechen problem should be solved in the context of ensuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation.

At the same time, reports of the conflict's further escalation cause our anxiety. The president, government, and supreme council of Ukraine are concerned at the developments surrounding Chechnya.

We are alarmed at reports of the conflict's further escalation and the increasing threat of it spreading regionally and leading to casualties among the civilian population. We still hope, however, that the conflict will be settled by political methods and once again urge that it should be so.

On Ukrainian citizens' possible participation in combat actions in Chechnya, the president of Ukraine said: I can assure you that the Security Service, the Internal Affairs Ministry, and other law enforcement agencies have been instructed to take every possible precaution to prevent any form of Ukrainian citizens' engagement in the developments surrounding Chechnya.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine at the same time has warned our citizens who have found themselves in the region, that it is necessary to immediately leave the conflict zone and that it is impermissible for them to take any part in combat operations.

Ministry Warns Against Chechnya Travel

LD2012200394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Dec 20 (Interfax-Ukraine)—The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has warned the republic's citizens against trips to the area of the armed conflict in Chechnya.

The ministry called on Ukrainian citizens temporarily staying in the conflict area to refrain from participation in armed clashes on any side and immediately leave the region.

Asked whether the Ukrainian government planned any special activities to evacuate Ukrainian citizens from the conflict area, the head of the political analysis and prognosis department, Igor Kharchenko, told a briefing in the ministry Tuesday that the issue was being "carefully examined and monitored." He said the ministry did not have information as to the number of victims among Ukrainian citizens in Chechnya.

Kharchenko hoped that "the ways for solving the confrontation by peaceful means have not yet been exhausted," and that the warring sides will look for such means.

The Ukrainian diplomat criticized some Ukrainian media for attempts to compare the Chechen crisis with the differences between Ukraine and Crimea calling them "motivated neither politically, nor logically."

Kiev Denies Involvement in Conflict

LD2212103794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1006 GMT 22 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow December 22 TASS—Ukraine "denounces mercenary activities unequivocally and it is a party to the international convention on struggle against recruiting, using and funding hirelings", Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued on Wednesday [21 December].

Press service of the ministry issued the statement in response to an earlier statement issued by the Russian Government's press service, which said that "Ukrainian ultra-nationalists" supported Dudayev's forces in fights in Chechnya and were recruited with silent consent on the part of Ukrainian authorities.

Ukrainian Foreign Ministry does hot have any information about any kind of mercenary involvement of Ukrainians in developments in Chechnya. Possible voluntary involvement of individual Ukrainians cannot provide ground for accusing Ukraine of encouraging mercenary activities, the press service of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said.

The statement was disseminated by the UKRINFORM official news agency.

URP Calls For Support for Chechens

LD2112235594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2215 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lugansk, 21 Dec—The Ukrainian Republican Party [URP] issued a statement calling on all democratic forces and people of Ukraine "to come to the defense of the fraternal Chechen people and give them a brotherly helping hand."

The URP leadership appealed to the president of Ukraine to do everything possible so as to halt the armed aggression against the Chechen republic.

Kuchma, Russian Communist Discuss Relations

LD2112221394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1620 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The aim of the visit to Ukraine by Gennadiy Zyuganov, the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, is to search for ways of preventing

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the involvement of Russia and Ukraine into a conflict with the Muslim world. He said this at a news conference today.

During the meeting between the Russian communists' leader and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, the two men discussed the state of Ukrainian-Russian relations.

Gennadiy Zyuganov emphasized at the news conference that "it is only through a concerted effort of our states that the cold war on the former USSR's territory can be warmed up." Expressing his vision of the communist movement's future, he said that the tendency toward a growth in left-wing parties' influence is observed today throughout the world, therefore, the left-wing forces in the countries of the former socialist camp will soon have a chance to come to power. In Gennadiy Zyuganov's opinion, any country's leadership is interested in the existence of left-wing parties, because it is better to deal with an organization than with an enraged crowd.

The Russian communists' leader emphasized that he believes it is inexpedient to unite the Communist Parties of Russia and Ukraine.

Kiev, Moscow Hold Final Meeting on Treaty

LD2112215594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 21 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kiev, Ukrainian and Russian delegates are holding a final meeting to draft a full-scale bilateral political treaty.

The Ukrainian delegation is led by First Vice-Premier Yevheniy Marchuk, and the Russian one by special envoy Yuriy Dubinin.

Interviewed before the meeting, Marchuk said that several technical questions remained to be settled. "We have coped with far more difficult problems already and I am certain that we shall achieve accord," he said.

Marchuk said that the declaration on the principles of the Black Sea Fleet's division, being drafted by the government delegations, is to be submitted to presidents in the same package with other agreements. Marchuk said that Russia was not trying to firmly link the Black Sea Fleet problem with the conclusion of a bilateral treaty.

In the meantime more than twenty admirals of the former USSR have asked the Russian and Ukrainian presidents to declare a moratorium on the division of the Black Sea Fleet.

In a message issued in Sevastopol they suggested taking a joint decision to form a common Black Sea fleet, which would incorporate the units and ships of the Ukrainian Navy and specify the fleet's objectives proceeding from the interests of Russia, Ukraine and other CIS countries.

The admirals believe that the division of the Black Sea fleet, begun three years ago in an attempt to "appease nationalist and separatist forces has seriously affected its combat readiness and the security of southern borders and will eventually result in the loss of the Black Sea Fleet".

Interfax's social and political modelling service believes that the current problems and contradictions between Russia and Ukraine will remain and bilateral relations will not undergo considerable change in the foreseeable future.

The polled experts—political scientists, economists, ministerial officials and journalists in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus believe this scenario is most probable in case of the stabilization of existing political regimes in both neighboring countries, in particular, in Russia.

Another probable scenario would lead to the establishment of neighborly relations without any elements of political, military or economic union. In Ukraine it will be most likely, if the current authorities stay in office, and in Russia if the reformist radicals come to power (the probability of that option in the current situation is relatively small).

If the current government in Moscow is preserved, the emergence of a union between the two countries and serious frictions between them as a result of Russia's likely attempts to intervene in some conflict between Ukraine's constituent territories are equally probable (the chances of either option constitute 38 percent).

A political shift of the Russian and Ukrainian society to the left would increase the chances of a union between the two countries, whereas the rise to power of the liberal democrats in Moscow and of the nationalists in Kiev would increase the possibility Ukraine may try to join a military-political alliance opposed to Russia or to set up such an alliance. This outcome of political struggle in the two neighboring countries would increase the risk of a direct conflict between them.

Black Sea Fleet Talks End Without Result

LD2112234594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2215 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 21 Dec—"Having drawn up a kind of an inventory, I am leaving for Moscow with the feeling that the Russian-Ukrainian relations are acquiring ever greater scope and versatility," Ambassador-at-large Yuriy Dubinin, the leader of the Russian delegation, pointed out.

The two-day meeting of the Ukrainian and Russian delegations, dedicated to the Black Sea Fleet issue, was to be crowned with a joint document. However, no such document was signed. The main reason for this was the fact that the sides failed, after all, to find a mutually

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acceptable term to define Russia's Navy. The Russian side insists that this should be "the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation," while the Ukrainian side insists on "Russia's Navy on the Black Sea."

First Deputy Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk, the leader of the Ukrainian delegation said the text of the general political agreement was coordinated, as a whole. Certain provisions in three articles of the treaty are still to be coordinated: On borders, on dual citizenship, and on cultural and spiritual heritage. The Ukrainian side insists on the following wording: "The Russian side recognizes and confirms the inviolability of the existing Ukrainian borders." Meanwhile, the Russian side considers it to be possible to confine itself to the wording "respects borders." However, "there are no fundamental differences, only some differences in details," Marchuk emphasized. These details are to be worked up by expert groups during the future meetings.

There are no big differences as regards the issue of restructuring Ukraine's debt to Russia, either. Working groups have been set up to deal with the payments related to the settlement of the Black Sea Fleet issue, which are to work these issues up in detail.

The problem of the fleet's separate bases remains unresolved. Russia lays claim to Sevastopol as "its main naval base," while Ukraine's naval forces, in the view of the Russian side, should be based, for instance, in Donuzlav.

Dubinin, head of the Russian delegation, fully agreed with Marchuk's assessment of the meeting. He at the same time disagreed on the degree to which the issues under discussion at the bilateral talks had been completed. With a total of 24 agreements analyzed, the issue of payments for current energy deliveries remains undecided.

As for the principles applied to mutual settlements, Marchuk said, there is a mutual understanding between the Ukrainian and Russian sides on such fundamental points as the leasing of territory. The legal status of the fleet's bases, Marchuk underlined, will be made the subject of a separate agreement, which is to give the precise definitions.

Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, the commander of Ukraine's naval forces, said that, as far as agreement on a declaration on a settlement to the Black Sea Fleet issue was concerned, "differences in the interpretation of certain terms—for example, 'leasing' and 'separate bases'—remain" as the main sticking point. That was why, Bezkorovaynyy said, what can be tabled before the presidents at present is "the not completely coordinated text of the declaration, for the presidents to open the brackets in it. [no closing quotation marks as received] The next Black Sea Fleet meeting will take place in January 1995.

Moscow Links Fuel Supplies to BSF Outcome

LD2112233094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Volodymyr Ivakhnenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—"One of the stands of principle, abided by the Russian side, which was discussed during the concluding negotiations between the state delegations of Ukraine and Russia, boils down to the fact that all the issues of gas and oil deliveries to Ukraine can only be resolved after the Black Sea Fleet [BSF] issue is settled," Anatoliy Gordukalov, the head of the Ministry of Fuel and Power Engineering of the Russian Federation [name and title as received], told UNIAN.

Members of the state delegations are now discussing the issue of a possibility of postponing Ukraine's debt for gas for seven years. At 2000, the negotiations were still in progress.

Tsekov Hopes CSCE Helps Relations With Kiev

LD2112213994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In the course of his two-day visit to the Republic of Crimea, Max Van der Stoel, CSCE high commissioner for national minorities met Crimea's President Yuriy Meshkov, Supreme Council Chairman Serhiy Tsekov, and representatives of the Crimean Tatars' Majlis, Refat Chubarov, Liliya Budzhurova and Nadyr Bekirov, deputies to the Supreme Council of Crimea. According to Mr. Van der Stoel, the CSCE mission is particularly concerned over the problems that emerged in relations between the Supreme Council of Crimea and the Supreme Council of Ukraine. However, in an interview with journalists, Mr. Van der Stoel expressed the hope that the required decisions will be found, both in the constitutional and economic fields, naturally, on the basis of inviolability of Ukraine's state borders.

According to Mr. Van der Stoel, the CSCE is planning to open its mission in Simferopol, so as to follow the developments immediately in Crimea's capital.

Commenting on the results of the meeting with Mr. Van der Stoel, Crimea's Supreme Council Chairman Tsekov pointed out that the CSCE representative's statements about the need to bring the Crimean Constitution in line with the Ukrainian Constitution made him feel apprehensive. If the CSCE mission is present in Crimea, it will have to contribute to regulating relations between Crimea and Ukraine and not to take the stand of what seems to be excessive pressure on the Republic of Crimea, Tsekov believes.

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National Affairs

Kiev Continues To Work For GATT Membership

WS2212110094 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0332 GMT 22 Dec 94

["Special to INTELNEWS" by Viktor Zubaniuk: "Ukraine Prepares To Join GATT"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Since gaining independence, Ukraine has been fighting an uphill battle with its foreign trade policy. Recently, however, Ukrainian trade officials have attempted to define a coherent Ukrainian trade policy, placing increased emphasis on efforts to join the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT).

In recent years, Ukrainian foreign trade suffered because of poorly defined foreign trade legislation, rapidly changing hard currency regulations, and an underdeveloped goods processing industry. In addition to these severe domestic problems, many Ukrainian exports have been made illegal by Western "anti-dumping laws" designed to prevent inexpensive Ukrainian goods from flooding the more developed markets of Europe and North America. According to Ukrainian Foreign Trade Minister Serhiy Osyka, the country lost almost $600 million because of these laws in 1994, roughly one sixth the value of all Ukrainian exports in 1993.

In order to reverse these negative trade trends, officials from the Foreign Trade Ministry, with support from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, decided to aggressively pursue Ukrainian membership in the GATT. Government officials have stressed Ukrainian GATT membership as an important part of halting the country's economic decline and even expect it to be a catalyst for more substantial market reforms.

According to Roman Shpek, Ukraine's economic minister, "GATT membership is a vital part of Ukraine's economic development because of the positive domestic reforms it will force the government to enact."

Echoing Shpek's evaluation of GATT, Trade Minister Osyka added that membership can be pursued unhindered by the political quagmire that bogs down so many economic reform attempts in Ukraine. "While politicians should be engaged in the country's economic policy," explained Osyka, "this is a matter that has been rightfully left to specialists."

Ukraine's economic specialists in the Foreign Trade Ministry began the official membership application process on June 28 by submitting to GATT a memorandum outlining Ukraine's foreign trade policies and goals. In response to the memorandum, GATT presented the Ukrainian government with a series of questions on the status of the country's economic reforms, particularly privatization and import regulation. Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Andriy Honcharuk reported that these questions are being analyzed and that an official response will soon be reviewed by a special inter- governmental committee set up to oversee Ukraine's GATT application, then submitted to GATT's secretariat.

As agreed during President Leonid Kuchma's recent visit to the United States, GATT's admission committee is slated to take up the question of Ukraine during its next session which will begin at the end of January.

Even with tacit American support, the Ukrainian government recognizes that the admission negotiations will be difficult. While no timetable has been set, officials hope to have completed the basic negotiations by the end of 1995. Many economists, however, believe that this process will stretch into 1996.

During this arduous negotiation process, economists stress the importance of Ukraine having an organized plan and reasonable goals. At the beginning of this year, Terrence Stewart, co-owner of Stewart & Stewart, a foreign trade consulting company, warned that without a coherent negotiation strategy, Ukraine could receive unfavorable terms of admission like several recently admitted Eastern European countries. According to Stewart, post-communist countries such as Poland, Hungary, and Romania assumed unacceptable import obligations for Western goods in order to gain rapid admission to the GATT. Only patience and a well-planned foreign trade strategy will prevent Ukraine from having to accept similar obligations.

Ukrainian officials seem to recognize the complexity of the future negotiations. "Ukraine would rather take the time necessary to forge a beneficial agreement than accept a hasty arrangement which places us in a disadvantaged trading position," said Honcharuk. The deputy minister explained that his government learned the importance of patience from a recent round of negotiations with the European Union. During these talks, economic details were overshadowed by political issues and, as a result, Ukraine accepted the European "anti-dumping" laws that make it illegal for many countries to accept some Ukrainian exports. Honcharuk now admits "we would have earned a more favorable situation had we only prolonged the negotiations."

As officials of the Foreign Trade Ministry prepare for next year's GATT negotiations, other branches of the Ukrainian government have concentrated on reforming foreign trade legislation to better meet the requirements of future Western trading partners. Toward this end, President Kuchma has issued a series of decrees in the last few months aimed at opening Ukraine's economy by liberalizing import and export regulations and limiting hard currency circulation. Additionally, First Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk asserts that this package of decrees has succeeded in creating a more hospitable economic environment for Western businessmen.

According to Honcharuk, the most important aspect of Kuchma's recent package of decrees is the minimization

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of the role of non- tariff regulation of exports and imports. "As a result of the new policy, only four groups of export products are currently covered by non-tariff regulation, and January 1, 1995 non-tariff regulation of exports will be totally abolished. Only exports of grain will remain under government control."

Honcharuk also stressed the positive impact of reducing import tariffs. It is expected that import tariffs will soon be cut to less than 30 percent for 99 percent of the goods imported into the country. This reduction lowers Ukraine's import tariff rate beyond the 40 to 45 percent rate agreed upon in preliminary discussions with GATT signatories. Undoubtedly, these recent changes will strengthen the Ukrainian position at next year's comprehensive negotiations, he said.

Having made admission to GATT a major issue, Ukrainian economic officials are determined to maintain an independent position during negotiations and will not be coordinating their policies with Russia. "To be tied to Russia on this issue, despite the diplomatic power the Russian government can wield, means sacrificing Ukrainian independence, which is unacceptable for us," said a Foreign Trade Ministry official, who requested anonymity.

Introduction of 'Hryvnya' Depends on Economy

AU2212115494 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 20 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Fact"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The whole amount of the future Ukrainian currency, the hryvnya, has already been printed. The banknotes with the denominations of 1, 5, 10, 100, and 200 hryvnyas were printed almost exclusively in Ukraine. The sum of money to be put into circulation will depend upon the state of the economy at the end of the year. National Bank Head Viktor Yushchenko pointed out that the present economic situation indicates that the rate of the present transitional currency, the karbovanets, relative to the hryvnya must be a five-digit figure, but it will have to be increased if the policy with regard to the monetary mass is weakened.

Horbulin Opposes 'Zero Option' Agreement

LD2112155194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1315 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, (UNIAN correspondent Volodymyr Ivakhnenko)—"Having signed the zero-option on the problems of the former Soviet Union's assets and liabilities in Moscow, Ukraine's Premier Vitaliy Masol did not display the necessary adherence to principle in a single package of documents along with the agreements on the restructuring of the Ukrainian debt and on foreign diplomatic missions which Ukraine lays claims to", Volodymyr Horbulin, the Ukrainian president's adviser on national security issues and secretary of the National Security Council said at a briefing in the Ukrainian president's administration on 21 December. He also remarked that he would never have signed the proposed documents on the transfer of diplomatic sites, particularly those on the African continent.

Touching on the talks in Kiev between the state delegations of Russia and Ukraine, the secretary of the National Security Council said that the issue of the Ukrainian debt was also being discussed. "Although we signed the 'zero-option' and counted on more loyalty on the part of the Russian Federation, in particular with regard to the Ukrainian debt, the difficult internal situation connected with the 'crisis' in Chechnya was probably influencing the course of the talks, Volodymyr Horbulin said.

Parliament Adopts Anti-Corruption Law

LD2212000094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By UNIAN correspondent Olena Melnyk]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—On 21 December, the Supreme Council of Ukraine approved by individual voting the draft law "on fighting corruption," "on introducing amendments and addenda to the current legislation on the responsibility of officials," and "on introducing amendments and addenda to some enforceable enactments of Ukraine in connection with the adoption of the law of Ukraine 'on fighting corruption.'" The above drafts were approved in the first reading.

The procuracy alone is now investigating 110 criminal cases dealing with corruption, involving over 160 officials. People's deputy of Ukraine Vasyl Durdynets told about this at a plenary sitting of parliament.

According to Hryhoriy Omelchenko, the head of Ukraine's Supreme Council commission for issues of fighting organized crime and corruption, the need to approve a separate law on fighting corruption is conditioned by the fact that the current legislation does not provide a proper legal basis for fighting these crimes.

The draft law determines the notions of "corruption," "corrupt actions," and the persons who have committed this crime (state employees, members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and Crimea, deputies to councils at all levels, and "persons who either permanently or temporarily perform state functions on a voluntary basis). The draft envisages special restrictions for state employees and the persons authorized to perform state functions, aimed to prevent corruption, determines responsibilities for committing this crime, etc.

The package of the above draft laws was supported by Ukraine's First Deputy Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk, Ukraine's Procurator General Vladyslav Datsyuk, Ukraine's Interior Minister Volodymyr Radchenko, Security Services' Chief Valeriy Malikov, and others.

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In the opinion of Valeriy Yevdokymov, the acting head of Ukraine's Supreme Council commission for issues of legality, law and order, the current legislation also allows to fight corruption effectively. According to him, the success of the fight against these crimes depends on the success of the market reform rather than the application of stricter sanctions. In Yevdokymov's opinion, the list of persons liable to the provisions of this draft law is unjustifiably long. "This will not raise the effectiveness of the fight against corruption but will only stimulate violations of law on the part of the bodies that will fight those crimes," he pointed out.

President Establishes Oil, Gas Rental Payments

LD2112231094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2052 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev December 21 TASS—President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine issued a decree establishing a rental payment for oil and gas extracted in the country.

This has been done for gradual levelling of prices for natural gas and oil extracted in Ukraine at which they are sold from other states, and creating conditions for the development of the oil and gas industry and replenishing revenues to the state budget of Ukraine.

According to the document, a rental payment shall be calculated in U.S. dollars, paid in the Ukrainian currency at an official rate of the Ukrainian karbovanets against the U.S. dollar as of the date of the sale of a product by oil and gas extracting enterprises, and shall be included in the price for oil and gas (without a value-added tax).

The Ministry of Economics and the Ministry of Finance together with the State Committee for Oil and Gas have been assigned to approve rates of rental payment for oil and natural gas extracted in Ukraine.

Government Evacuates Citizens From Chechnya

LD2112125294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1224 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 21 Dec—Ukrainian authorities are doing everything necessary to evacuate Ukrainian citizens from Chechnya, Vladimir Gorbulin, secretary of the National Security Council under the Ukrainian president, told ITAR-TASS today. He said Leonid Kuchma has instructed the Interior Ministry and the Security Service to do everything possible to ensure that Ukrainian citizens take no part in conflicts outside their state. V. Gorbunin reiterated the Ukrainian leadership's view that the armed conflict in Chechnya is Russia's internal affair.

Chernobyl Closure Seen as 'Political'

AU2112195994 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 20 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Danylo Kulynyak: "The True Reason for the Pressure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Needless to say, the problem of closing down the Chernobyl Atomic Power Plant [AES] has long become a political, as well as an economic problem. Not only public organizations and the "Greens," but also foreign states demand that it be closed down. The question of generally curtailing nuclear power engineering in Ukraine is being raised, despite the fact that it is perhaps the only reliable source of electricity production in our state. It is known that, in France, almost 80 percent of electricity is produced by atomic AES's; 45 AES units are producing energy in Japan, a country of increased seismic risk that was once subjected to nuclear bombing. From the ecological point of view, thermal electric power plants are, perhaps, more hazardous than nuclear ones, not to mention the need for fuel, which is presently in such short supply in Ukraine: coal, gas, and other petroleum products. It may therefore be said that nuclear power engineering in Ukraine is a kind of guarantor of its energy-related independence, if one takes into account the fact that our state has large uranium deposits—it is only necessary to urgently set up a complete cycle of its processing for use by AES's and for manufacturing thermal elements (tvels), so that we would not depend upon Russia for them. It is precisely nuclear power engineering that may give the young Ukrainian state a certain reserve of time, a breathing space for the development of alternative energy sources (solar, wind, biological, small hydroelectric power plants, and so on), exploration and prospecting for new deposits of coal, oil, and gas, particularly in the coastal shelf of the Black and Azov seas, and also the secondary utilization of gas and oil fields, not fully exhausted, but abandoned as unpromising, yet still containing at least one-half of their reserves—we only need new technologies for their extraction. Besides, it is necessary to ensure optimal utilization of the available reserves and resources.

Regarding the demands to close down the Chernobyl AES, there is a single main reason here, although nobody speaks about it aloud: The thing is that reactors of RBMK [high-capacity reactor]-1000 type, which work in Ukraine only at the Chernobyl AES, may be used for producing weapons-grade plutonium, since this is a double-purpose reactor: Its other purpose is military and, if required, it may be used for manufacturing nuclear weapons.

As long as Ukraine has at least one operating RBMK-1000 reactor, it may, if necessary, organize the production of its own nuclear weapons and become a nuclear power, something totally contrary to plans of the mighty powers, primarily the United States, Russia, and other nuclear powers—they only need a nonnuclear Ukraine.

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In Russia, for example, dozens of reactors of this type account for 46 percent of the electricity produced, but, for some reason, nobody raises the question of closing down the Smolensk or Kursk AES's, which are also situated in the Dnieper Basis. Nobody puts pressure on Russia demanding the closure of those plants, because everybody realizes that it is a hopeless venture, since Russia is allowed to have nuclear weapons and Ukraine is not. Consequently, it is not a matter of ecology or concern about our health.

New Commission Deals With German Toxic Waste

AU2212101194 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 20 Dec 94 p 8

[Report by Serhiy Melnychuk from Rivne: "German Waste, But Our Headache"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since 3 March 1993, toxic waste imported by the firm "Podillya" from Germany has been stored at a military unit in Rivne Oblast. Local authorities had hoped that the question of returning the "presents" to the FRG would be resolved at a state level, but it turned out that there is no corresponding basis for lodging a claim to the "benefactors."

The Rivne Oblast Executive Committee decided that it was better to rely upon its own efforts, so they created a competent commission that must investigate the foreign donation and decide what may be used and what must be neutralized. Yuriy Kostenko, minister of environmental protection, supported such a variant of resolving the problem.

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Belarus

'Proper' Payments Ensure Energy Deliveries

WS2212112894 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1400 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to information received, the expected volume of oil deliveries from Russia in 1995 will total about 10.5 million tonnes. Almost 5 million tonnes of oil will be delivered to Belarus by the Roskontrakt joint stock company on a clearing basis. Within the framework of the cooperation of the fuel and energy industries of the two states, up to 3.5 million tonnes are expected to be delivered. The Slavneft joint stock company, which was established of the basis of the Russian Megionneftegaz company and the Mozyr oil-refining plant, plans to process in Belarus up to 6 million tonnes, 40 percent of the oil products being sold within the country. Besides, non-state organizations are supposed to be occupied with oil deliveries under direct contracts as well.

In accordance with an agreement with the Gazprom concern, in 1995 Belarus will be supplied with 16 billion cubic meters of gas, which is over a billion more than this year. Note should be taken that the gas and oil deliveries to the aforesaid amount are possible only on condition that they are paid for in proper time. If the Belarusian consumers fail to do so, the gas and oil supply will be reduced to the level meeting the real payment for them.

Maltsev Signs Military Agreement in Warsaw

MM2012121294 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Dec 94 p 3

[Report from "Own Information/ITAR-TASS" column under the rubric "Military Reports From Abroad": "Poland and Belorussia: Hand in Hand"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cooperation in the sphere of servicemen's training, the use of combat equipment, and cultural and educational work is provided for in a plan for contacts between the military departments of Poland and Belorussia [Belarus]. It was signed in Warsaw by the two countries' deputy defense ministers, Jerzy Milewski and Lieutenant General Leonid Maltsev.

The Belorussian delegation visited Poland to discuss questions of bilateral cooperation in the military sphere at the invitation of the Polish Army General Staff. Talks took place between J. Milewski and L. Maltsev concerning participation by Poland and Belorussia in the "Partnership for Peace" program.

Shooting Incident Occurs on Polish Border

MM2212100194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Dec 94 p 3

[Reports by Leonid Kornilov and Aleksandr Starikevich under the general heading "In Hot Pursuit. Belorussian Border Guard Wounded by Polish Brothers in Arms"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Warsaw—Nineteen-year-old Belorussian [Belarusian] soldier Leonid Korol was seriously wounded in the stomach, chest, and head during an exchange of fire with Polish border guards on the territory of Bialystok Province.

A truck traveling from Belorussia [Belarus] to Poland was subjected to the usual control at the Bobrovniki border crossing on the night of Sunday-Monday [18-19 December]. The Poles opened the body. Dark-skinned refugees jumped out of it and took to their heels. Shots rang out in the darkness and the Polish border guards returned fire.

It turned out that the Belorussian border guards had crossed the border in hot pursuit of the citizens of Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh who were hiding in the truck. All the offenders were caught within two hours. They included 24 Somalis, 14 Sri Lankan citizens, and seven Bangladeshis. They were all emaciated and filthy. Many had lost their boots at the Svisloch border river. [Kornilov ends]

Minsk—Everything was as usual: A group of Afro-Asians, who had arrived on Belorussian territory from Russia, burrowed under the plowed control strip and safely escaped to Poland.

The situation was aggravated by the extremely unprofessional actions of Belorussian border guards and the complete lack of collaboration between them and their Polish colleagues. Having belatedly discovered the tunnel, representatives of the Belorussian Border Guard Troops set off in pursuit of the offenders. Fairly quickly they ended up on Polish territory....

This incident could put the Belorussian authorities in quite an unpleasant position. Not so long ago the Belorussian Foreign Ministry sent Warsaw an official protest note concerning attempts by the Polish special services to recruit Belorussian citizens on Polish territory. The Polish side now has a wide choice of possible replies.

The previous mass crossing of the Belorussian-Polish border caused the dismissal of Border Guard Troops Commander Yevgeniy Bocharov, a supporter of former Premier Vyacheslav Kebich. The little-known Colonel Vasiliy Morkovkin was appointed in his place. He is now a general. At least in Bocharov's time nobody tried to go deep into foreign territory and capture border violators by force.

'Official Version' Notes Details

WS2212120894 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1459 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As it was reported, in the night from December 18-19 an incident took place at the Belarusian-Poland frontier. According to an official version received from the Central Board of the Frontier Troops of Belarus, in the section of one of the frontier

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posts of the Hrodna frontier detachment a gap under the borderland and signalling system was discovered. A group of frontier guards was urgently called to the place, a general alarm was raised in the neighbouring frontier posts and frontier control department "Berestavitsa". The Polish side was informed too. As a result of joint actions, 36 trespassers were detained, 7 of them were citizens of Bangladesh, 13—Somalia, 14—Sri Lanka and 2 Poles. In the course of pursuing one Belarusian frontier guard was wounded. He underwent an operation and his state of health is satisfactory now. For holding an inquiry into the incident a special commission of the Central Board of the Frontier Troops of Belarus left for the frontier. Representatives of the Central Board did not answer a BELAPAN correspondent's question where the wounded frontier guard was hospitalized.

Moldova

Prime Minister Discusses Energy Resources

AU2112201194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1959 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 20/12/1994—At the end of today's parliamentary session, Premier Sangheli presented a report on supply with energy resources. He said that in 1995 Russia will deliver to Moldova 2.8 billion cubic metres of gas at $58, instead of $80 paid earlier. He said that Moldova will gain $22,000 and a global saving of $62 million due to decreased gas consumption fees for economic entities [sentence as received]. Sangheli said that Ukraine agreed to deliver in the next five years 2.5 million tonnes of coal from Donetsk which is cheaper thanks to a shorter distance. He said that the government will begin using Moldovan gas and oil resources which, according to some preliminary estimates, are sufficient for 10 years. The reserves near Valeni alone represent one third of the average annual consumption. Sangheli said that to estimate and use these reserves $26-30 million and a 8-month period are required. By the end of February the Parliament will begin examining the legal framework for this long- term program.

Tiraspol Sees Peacekeeper Reduction as 'Logical'

LD2112201794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, Dec 21 (Interfax)—Russia's decision to half the peacekeeping forces in Transdniestria [Dniester] is "logical", said parliament speaker of the unrecognized Transdniestrian Moldovan Republic Grigoriy Marakutsa.

He told Interfax on Wednesday that on the whole Tiraspol opposed the reduction of the peacekeeping contingent, "but understands the motives behind Russia's recent decision to cut down its peacekeeping contingent in Transdniestria."

Marakutsa said that "from the financial point of view the maintenance of the peacekeeping contingent in Transdniestria is rather burdensome for Russia."

He noted however, that he opposed Moldova's proposal on the introduction of collective peacekeeping forces or military formations under CSCE aegis to Transdniestria. "The example of Yugoslavia vividly demonstrates what the outcome of international organizations' peacekeeping efforts can be. In our case this is fraught with dangerous consequences, because these organizations' peacekeeping forces are not familiar with our situation," he said.

Lebed Denies 14th Army Use in Chechnya

AU2112165194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1959 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 21/12/1994—Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed denied the rumours that 14th Army soldiers are taking part in the Chechen hostilities. Earlier, some information media relayed that the 14th Army command dispatched forces to Chechenya. In a TV program broadcast yesterday by the "Asket" cable TV, Lebed said that these rumours were spread by the Dniester Security Ministry and OLVIA-PRESS news agency. In Lebed's opinion, the latter is carrying out the orders of the Dniester security. He added that "Russia has enough soldiers."

Journalists Note Decline in Subscription Rates

AU2112200994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1959 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 21/12/1994—The economic-financial crisis experienced by Moldova and social apathy caused by the poor assurance of the minimum living standard led to a drastic decrease in the number of subscribers for periodicals, states an appeal by the Moldovan Journalists Union to the Moldovan leadership. By the beginning of December, only 50,000 people have subscribed for the publications MOLDOVA SUVERANA (SOVEREIGN MOLDOVA, NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA (INDEPENDENT MOLDOVA), PAMANT SI OAMENI (LAND AND PEOPLE), SAPTAMANA (THE WEEK) and TARA (THE COUNTRY). Thus, most people are deprived of one of the basic rights-the right to information, says the appeal.

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Kazakhstan

PFP Viewed as 'Waiting Room' Before Joining NATO

LD2112212594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1603 GMT 21 Dec 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BISHKEK, Dec 21. (Interfax)—Kyrgyzstan regards the NATO Partnership for Peace [PFP] program as a waiting room before joining NATO.

Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Rosa Otunbayeva said in Bishkek Tuesday [20 December] that Kyrgyzstan was drafting a document on its joining the partnership and a Kyrgyzstan-NATO program.

According to Otunbayeva, Kyrgyzstan's joining Partnership for Peace would contribute to the regional security and help Kyrgyzstan deal with the effects of natural disasters and in carrying out technological and training programs.

She believed that Central Asian countries should not trail behind the others. They have to form their own peacekeeping forces and keep them prepared for various operations, notably peacekeeping in Tajikistan.

Otunbayeva emphasized that the conflict in Chechnya is a Russian internal affair. She called for avoiding bloodshed and looking for a resolution of the conflict through political dialog.

Call for More Combat Readiness in Armed Forces

LD2112223094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1924 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty], Dec 21 (Interfax)—Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev said the former Soviet republic should strengthen its security by diplomacy and by increasing its armed forces' combat readiness.

Speaking on Wednesday [21 December] at the Defense Ministry, Nazarbayev said the Central Asian state has a "purely" defensive military doctrine and that he is making "persistent" efforts to obtain security guarantees for Kazakhstan in exchange for the country's nuclear disarmament and its joining the START-I and Nonproliferation treaties.

The Kazakh leader said his government would continue to insist on the creation of a single defense system for the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Kazakhstan established its own armed services in 1992.

Oil Expert Details Reserves, Problems

LD2112190394 Almaty PANORAMA in Russian 17 Dec 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] As a rule, articles dealing with the oil sector of Kazakhstan's economy deal with specific deposits or the companies engaged in working them. Today, PANORAMA offers a comprehensive view of the problem. Nadir Nadirov, academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan and honorary oil industry worker of the USSR, answers PANORAMA's questions.

[PANORAMA] Mr. Nadirov, several large Kazakh oil deposits such as Tengiz and Karachaganak are usually mentioned in the press. But that is not all the oil reserves that Kazakhstan possesses.

[Nadirov] Of course not. Fourteen promising basins have been identified in the republic, so far. They are situated virtually all across Kazakhstan's territory, including regions where hydrocarbon raw materials have never been extracted. For example, there are the North Kazakh, Zaysan, and Iliyskiy basins. In addition, there are large oil deposits concentrated on Caspian Sea shelf. Kazakhstan has the second largest reserves of hydrocarbon raw materials in the CIS, Russia being number one. If we were now working all 160 of the oil and gas deposits that have been discovered, the republic's oil potential would be no inferior to that of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, or the United Arab Emirates. It is calculated that workable oil reserves at only those deposits that have been opened up so far total 2,700 million tonnes.

[PANORAMA] Despite these gigantic reserves, we are unable to resolve the issue of achieving self-sufficiency in energy.

[Nadirov] Oil extraction has been systematically decreasing in recent years: 26.4 million tonnes were extracted in 1991, 18.5 million tonnes in 1993, and 16.8 million in 1994. This volume of extraction means that the republic is unable to guarantee the normal running of three oil refineries: Atyrau, Pavlodar, and Chymkent, the design capacity of which is such that they have to process 18 million tonnes per annum—to say nothing of other requirements. There are many causes of this state of affairs: The disruption of ties following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the lack of financing from the budget, and so on.

[PANORAMA] Is there any way out of the situation that has arisen? Where will the funds be obtained to develop the deposits given the present economic situation and the budget deficit?

[Nadirov] Recently a decision was made that enterprises will be able to sell 30 percent of the oil they extract themselves and fix the prices of it independently from 1995. The funds they derive from sales can be used to develop the enterprises. This is the right approach, and it will help to solve many of the industry's problems.

Recently the Cabinet of Ministers examined the program for developing the oil and gas industry until 2000, under which it is planned to extract 26.8 million tonnes of oil in 1995 and about 45 million tonnes by 2000. The increase in oil extraction is planned to be carried out at the

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expense of the deposits being mined, mainly Tengiz, Karachaganak, Uzen, and Zhetibay.

[PANORAMA] Cooperation between Kazakh and Russian oil men has recently become more active. Will this help solve the problems of the Kazakh oil sector?

[Nadirov] It certainly will. After all, all the major oil and gas deposits have been developed and opened up with the active involvement of oil and gas enterprises in the Russian Federation. An accord has now been reached that Russia will restart 400 wells at the Uzen deposit in 1995, and another 600 at a later date. The Karachaganak oil and gas condensate deposit will be developed jointly. A single gas market will thus be created and the problem of employment for the population in regions hard hit by redundancies will be solved. Russia is taking an active part in laying the Tengiz-Novorossiysk pipeline in conjunction with Oman and the Chevron company.

[PANORAMA] A serious scientific base is needed for implementing large-scale and effective transformations in the oil industry.

[Nadirov] Yes, this is a very serious problem. The rate at which science has been developing has recently been significantly behind the industry's rate of development. This began to have an especially damaging effect on the effective operation of enterprises after the Soviet Union disintegrated, because all the industry-based or academic research institutions that did work for the oil and gas extraction and processing enterprises were placed under Russian jurisdiction.

The scale of Kazakhstan's scientific potential in this sphere cannot be compared with Russia's or even Azerbaijan's. Moreover, we have another problem: The exodus of qualified specialists. The situation calls for urgent measures to unite the efforts of scientists and engineers to promote scientific and technical progress in the industry. To this end, the Academy of Engineering of Kazakhstan, supported by the Ministry of Science and New Technology, has founded a Science and Engineering Center for Oil. Its tasks include developing new methods and technologies and putting them into production, carrying out independent expert studies of projects and contracts, and giving enterprises assistance in personnel training. I think this will help to solve the problems of many of our enterprises, and of the industry as a whole, and will help lay the foundations for forming an independent scientific base.

[PANORAMA] A complicated situation has developed with regard to the supply of lubricants in various branches of Kazakh industry. Can Kazakhstan's oil refineries solve the problem?

[Nadirov] Lubricants have never been produced at our oil refineries, although many varieties of Kazakh oil are very suitable for this. The republic needs 500,000 tonnes of lubricants a year. They are purchased at world prices ($1000 per tonne). Many enterprises and whole branches of industry are having to cut back on their requirements for these products because the prices are so high. For example, the railway sector has reduced them by half, which naturally is not conducive to running normal transport operations. Annual expenditures on purchasing inadequate amounts of lubricants and other oil products will total about $1.2 billion once we go over to free prices.

Yet it would be quite possible to solve the problem if an oil processing plant producing lubricants were built in Alga in Aktyubinsk Region. This area is very suitable for the construction of such an enterprise—the Kenkiyak-Zhanazhol oil deposits are located nearby, the railway network is quite well developed, the infrastructure is oriented toward oil refining, and there is spare labor capacity. All these factors will allow the scale of capital expenditure to be reduced. The annual capacity of the Alga oil refinery could total 1.5-2 million tonnes. About 300,000 tonnes of lubricants could be produced from this amount of oil, which would almost entirely meet the requirements of Kazakhstan's enterprises. The plant would recoup itself over three to three-and-a-half years. Furthermore, it would help solve the problems facing the Fosfokhim [phosphorus/chemicals] industrial amalgamation located there, which is cutting production because of the shortage of raw materials supplied from Russia.

[PANORAMA] Kazakhstan is famous for its reserves of so-called heavy oils. Will these be developed in the foreseeable future?

[Nadirov] We have immense reserves of heavy oils (or natural bitumens). They exceed the deposits of ordinary oil several times over. The deposits of this oil contain large amounts of precious metals and lie at a comparably shallow depth, 350 meters underground. No technologies for working them are available yet, so this rather represents a strategic reserve for the future. But we should study these reserves now.

Tajikistan

Tajik-Afghan Statement on Border 'Acts of Provocation'

LD2112125094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1221 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe December 21 TASS—The Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan have expressed in a joint statement for the press their serious concern over continuous acts of provocation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

The statement released Wednesday [21 December] stresses that these provocative activities are at glaring

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variance with the agreement between the Tajik government and the opposition on ceasefire and on the termination of other hostile actions on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the country. Such actions can by no means facilitate stabilisation of the public and political situation in the republic, the statement points out.

The statement notes that after the agreement went into effect, and particularly since October 20 of this year, members of the irreconcilable Tajik opposition have violated the Tajik-Afghan border more than 20 times. The shelling of the Russian border posts on October 21 resulted in casualties among the border troops, it says.

The statement rejects the Tajik opposition leader's allegations that the Russian border troops "exceed their mandate" as "absolutely groundless". The opposition leader alleged that the Russian border troops have been dealing pre-emptive strikes at opposition bases and detained its armed supporters in the republic's border areas.

The statement stresses that the Russian troops act strictly within the framework of the agreement on the legal status of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan signed between Moscow and Dushanbe on May 25, 1993. Under this mandate, the Russian border troops are committed to non-intervention in the internal Tajik conflict. They are stationed in Tajikistan solely to protect the Tajik border by suppressing any attempts of militants to cross the border illegally and of smugglers to bring weapons and drugs into Tajikistan.

In view of the above, the Foreign Ministries of Russia and Tajikistan call on the leaders of the armed Tajik opposition to stop acts of provocation and other hostile actions against Russian border troops, strictly abide by the agreement on temporary ceasefire, and create conditions for peaceful political dialogue aiming to settle the present problems.

The statement stresses that the Russian border troops will continue to rebuff all attempts at violating the Afghan-Tajik border by members of the irreconcilable opposition.

UN Official Received, Moscow Talks Discussed

LD2112135494 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today President Emomali Rakhmanov of the Republic of Tajikistan received Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, the UN Secretary-General's special envoy on Tajikistan. Today Piriz-Ballon also met with Tajik Prime Minister Dzhamshed Karimov, Supreme Council first deputy chairman Abdulmajid Dostiyev, and Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov. Matters relating to the forthcoming fourth round of inter-Tajik talks in Moscow were discussed at these meetings.

One should not regard the inter-Tajik negotiating process as having been protracted. The international community is attentively following the course of the dialogue, and a certain amount of progress has been achieved in this area, Piriz-Ballon said. At the same time there have been breaches of the temporary agreement on a cease-fire within the country and on the Tajik-Afghan border, where regrettable incidents have been taking place.

At the forthcoming fourth round of inter-Tajik talks, which it is planned to hold in Moscow at the beginning of 1995, it is proposed to discuss the third package of issues—the structure of fundamental political institutions, the special envoy said. Within the framework of preparations for these talks, consultations with senior Tajik officials will be held in Dushanbe, and will be held later with leaders of the Tajik opposition.

Before arriving the capital of Tajikistan, the high-ranking diplomat was in Tashkent, meeting Uzbek officials who are taking part in resolving the Tajik problem.

Today Ramiro Piriz-Ballon will leave Dushanbe.

Biographies of New Deputy Prime Ministers

LD2112153094 Dushanbe SADO-I MARDOM in Tajik 10 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmadsaid Ubaydulloyev [first deputy prime minister] was born in the village of Kirovskiy in Parkhar district in 1952. In 1974 after graduating from Kharkov polytechnical institute, he worked in Kulyab regional statistics center administration. From 1979-85 he engaged in political activities. In 1986 he was appointed head of administration of the central statistics committee of the Republic of Tajikistan. In 1986 he moved to political activities. In 1988 he worked as head of the administration of Kurgan-Tyube regional statistics committee. In 1990 he was appointed deputy chairman of Kulyab Region soviet of people's deputies. At the 16th session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, he was appointed deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. By decree of the president of the Republic of Tajikistan of 8 December 1994, he was appointed first deputy prime minister. Ubaydulloyev is married and has three children.

Oqil Ghaybulloyevich Oqilov [deputy prime minister] was born in the town of Khodzhand, Leninabad Region, in 1944. His working life began as a lathe operator's apprentice in a workshop of the Tajiktselinstroy [Tajikistan's virgin land construction] trust's construction unit No. 25. In 1961-63 in line with his studies, he worked as a concrete worker at the Moscow Metrostroy [underground construction] construction enterprise and after graduating from the Moscow Engineering and Construction Institute, from 1968-76 he worked in various construction companies of the town of Khodzhand. From 1976-93 he engaged in political activities. In 1993 Oqilov was appointed minister of construction of the Republic of Tajikistan. By decree of the president of the Republic of Tajikistan of 8 December 1994, he was appointed deputy prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan. Oqilov is a corresponding member of the

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engineering academy of the Republic of Tajikistan, winner of the state Rudaky prize in the field of construction and architecture and was also awarded the Symbol of Honor and a medal. He is married and has three children.

Basgul Dodkhudoyeva [deputy prime minister] was born in the village of Porshnev in Gornyy Badakhshan Autonomous Region in 1939. After graduating from the Dushanbe pedagogical institute, she worked as a teacher, a deputy head, and head in one of Dushanbe's primary schools. In 1964 she was appointed deputy head of the people's educational department and then was elected deputy chairman of the soviet of people's deputies in the central district. In 1975 she worked as the head of the people's education department in the Dushanbe executive committee. In 1976 she was appointed deputy, then first deputy minister of education of the Soviet Republic of Tajikistan. In 1992 she was appointed minister of education of the Republic of Tajikistan. In April 1994 she was appointed deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan. By decree of the president of the Republic of Tajikistan of 8 December 1994, Basgul Dodkhudoyeva was appointed deputy prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan. Basgul Dodkhudoyeva was awarded the order of the Symbol of Honor and two medals. She is married and has two children.

Jamoliddin Mansurov [deputy prime minister] was born in the village of Qipchoq in Hisar district in 1951. After finishing the State University of Tajikistan in 1973, he worked as a senior economist in the planning department of Gissar district's executive committee. From 1977-79 he engaged in active military service. After completing active service, he was engaged in political activities from 1979-84. In 1984 he was appointed director of the Druzhba state farm in Hisar district. Then from 1986-89 he engaged in political activities. In 1989 he was appointed chairman of the executive committee of Gissar district and remained in this office until 1993. From 1993-94 he was chairman of the executive committee of people's deputies in the city of Dushanbe. By decree of the president of the Republic of Tajikistan of 8 December 1994, he was appointed deputy prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan. He is a people's deputy of Tajikistan and was awarded the medal of the 60th anniversary of the USSR Armed Forces.

Qadriddin Zabirovich Ghiyosov [deputy prime minister] was born in the village of Chuzy, Gissar district, in 1940. In 1963 after graduating from the agricultural institute, he worked as a senior agronomist and then a junior scientific worker in a scientific research institute. From 1965-66 he engaged in active military service. After completing active service from 1966-75 he was chief agronomist in the Ilyich state farm and deputy chairman of the Lenin collective farm in Kuybyshev district.

From 1975-80 he worked as chief state inspector in the state agricultural production quality and purchase administration, head of the agricultural administration in Kuybyshev district, and head of the agricultural administration in the executive committee of Kurgan-Tyube Region. From 1982-1992 he was engaged in political activities. From January-July 1993 he was first advisor on the Republic of Tajikistan's Supreme Council Committee on Agrarian Policy, Provisions, and Employment and from June 1993 was the chairman of this committee. By decree of the president of the Republic of Tajikistan of 8 December 1994, he was appointed deputy prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan. Ghiyosov is a people's deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan and was awarded a number of orders and medals.

Kholisjon Temurjonov [deputy prime minister] was born in the town of Isfara, Leninabad Region, in 1942. He began his working life in the laboratory of an enterprise. In 1965 he graduated from the Moscow Technological and Chemical Institute and in 1973 graduated from the State University of Tajikistan by correspondence. Between 1966 and 1975, starting as a senior master, he became section head in Isfara's chemical works. From 1975-90 he was a high-ranking manager in Isfara hydro metallurgic works. From 1990-91 he engaged in soviet and party work. From 1991-93 he worked as director general of the Zarya Vostoka corporation in the town of Taboshar. In 1993 he was appointed deputy minister of industry of the Republic of Tajikistan as head of the department on the problems of defense enterprises. In 1994 he was appointed deputy chairman of the executive committee in Leninabad Region. By decree of the president of the Republic of Tajikistan of 8 December 1994, he was appointed deputy prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan. He was awarded the orders of the Red Banner of Labor and Symbol of Honor and as well as a medal. Temurjonov holds the Abuali ibn Sino State Prize.

Gafurov Rahimjon [presidential state counsellor on economic problems] was born in the village of Puliton, Kanibadam district, on 8 August 1937. After graduating from the Dushanbe agricultural institute in 1960, he first worked in the administration of Kizil Yakhsu irrigation, then at the construction enterprises of Yavan and Lenin districts. In 1974 he moved to the administration of the Council of Ministers affairs. In 1975 he was appointed minister of local construction. He was appointed: in November 1980, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; in 1986, first deputy chairman of the State Committee on Agriculture and Industry; in 1988, first deputy chairman of the State Committee on Construction; and in 1990, minister of local construction. From 1994 he was first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. By decree of the president of the Republic of Tajikistan of 8 December 1994, he was appointed state counsellor of the president of the Republic of Tajikistan on economic issues. Gafurov is married and has three children.

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Edict Regulates Sales on Aluminum

LD2212060694 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a decree by the president of the Republic of Tajikistan on regulating the sale of aluminum:

With the object of completely satisfying the vitally important demands of the population, based on the fruitful utilization of foreign currency resources resulting from the sale of aluminum, I decree:

1. It is to be established that from 1 January 1995, under the extraordinary conditions when measures are being taken to take the republic out of economic crisis, the Tajik Aluminum Plant is the sole representative of the government of the Republic of Tajikistan which has the right to sell aluminum to clients from the republic as well as abroad. On the basis of quotas confirmed by the government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Tajik Aluminum Plant is to be given the right to conclude contracts for selling aluminum with clients from the republic and abroad.

2. It is to be established that, except for the quantity of metal allocated by the government to the plant, the foreign exchange revenues from the sale of aluminum abroad should all be deposited in the republican foreign exchange fund and be spent to meet the vital and important needs of the population according to the instructions of the government .

3. The Tajik Aluminum Plant is exempted from paying customs and excise duties. It is also considered necessary that the this plant, while selling the aluminum that is intended to meet the needs of the republic, should be exempted from value-added tax and should deposit the additional profits from this activity in the republican foreign exchange fund. This issue is to be submitted to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan for consideration.

4. The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan should make the necessary allocations in the budget for the loss of revenue from the aluminum which the Tajik Aluminum Plant would sell for foreign exchange and deposits in the republican foreign exchange fund.

5. The government of the Republic of Tajikistan should give the Tajik Aluminum Plant a general export licence, without payment, to cover the export of its aluminum products.

6. This decree will come into effect from the moment of signature.

[signed] Emomali Rakhmanov, the president of the Republic of Tajikistan

Uzbekistan

Minister Hails Signing of Bilateral Agreement With U.S.

LD2112220494 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1400 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] As reported in the media, an Uzbek Government delegation headed by Otkir Sultanov, the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign economic relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan, visited Washington on 14-16 December 1995.

The negotiations resulted in the signing of a bilateral intergovernmental agreement on encouragement and mutual protection of investments. On the American side the document was signed by the U.S. trade representative, Ambassador Mickey Kantor.

Please tell us about the main results of your visit to the United States.

[Begin Sultanov recording] On 15 December this year a very important document was signed in Washington—the agreement on investment protection. This document represents the legislative foundations for the active integration of our economies and the establishment of relationships based on equal partnership.

Washington made another practical step to stimulate economic ties between our countries. Assigning exceptional importance to the agreement that had been signed, the U.S. president's trade mission sent the media a press release stating that American-Uzbek relations are entering a qualitatively new stage in their development, and that they are assuming quite broad dynamism in their development, gaining strength and becoming productive and complete.

Coming back to the agreement signed in Washington, I would like to say that this agreement now creates one more strong communications bridge between our countries. This makes it possible to virtually complete the whole legislative basis, and reinforces the existing U.S.-Uzbek intergovernmental agreement on trade.

It aroused an immense reaction in the U.S. business world, which has once again received the political support of the U.S. Administration for their business in Uzbekistan. [end recording]

Belarus President Arrives on Official Visit

LD2112183594 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Uzbek 1300 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarus President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has arrived in our country at the head of a government delegation.

The president of our country, Islam Karimov, cordially welcomed the high-ranking guest at Tashkent airport, which was decorated with the flags of the two countries.

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There was a guard of honor, and the Belarus and Uzbek national anthems were played.

During the Belarus president's visit to our country, 18 documents are expected to be signed raising relations between our countries to a higher level.

Radio Liberty Helps to Enhance Uzbek Stature Abroad

LD2212054994

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian on 22 December runs an article on page 1 which says that Radio Liberty has recognized its obligation to provide objective information about Uzbekistan, thus further raising the authority of the country.

The article, entitled "Acknowledgement by Liberty", printed a letter received by Radio Liberty from a listener in Tajikistan who reproached the radio station for being biased in its reports on Uzbekistan. The international U.S.-funded radio station was accused of reporting "only failures, and giving little attention to the positive changes taking place in this republic."

Uzbekistan has achieved much over three years of independence, and this is all thanks to President Karimov, the listener wrote. The letter ended with a request: "Let's support the favorite son of this soil—Islam Karimov".

Radio Liberty responded, according to the newspaper, by recognizing "the great contribution of Islam Karimov", adding that it was aware of "its duty to give listeners objective information about Uzbekistan."

NARODNOYE SLOVO concluded by commenting that this acknowledgement by Radio Liberty was "yet one more proof that the authority of our country is growing ever greater on the international arena."

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Armenia

Additional 13 Deputies Relinquish Credentials

NC2112193194 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1328 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 21/12/94 (NOYAN TAPAN)—After the members of the National Democratic Union's parliamentary faction had relinquished their credentials as deputies of the Armenian Parliament, early on December 21 the members of ARF [Armenian Revolutionary Federation] Dashnaktsutyun parliamentary faction did likewise.

The Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh], leader of Dashnaktsutyun's parliamentary faction Seyran Baghdasaryan made a statement, announcing about dissolution of the parliamentary faction of ARF Dashnakstutyun, operating within the Armenian Supreme Council. ARF Dashnaktsutyun parliamentary faction was made up of 13 deputies.

Baghdasaryan also announced about news conference, which would be convened on this occasion and said it would be held on December 22.

NT's note: The current crisis in the Armenian Supreme Council was caused by murder of the ex-Mayor of Yerevan, member of the "Karabakh" Committee Hambartsum Galustyan.

Security Official: 'Political Terrorism' May Continue

NC2112210194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1639 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, 21 December. (SNARK)—Acts of political terrorism and assassinations will possibly continue in Armenia, announced today the acting head of the State National Security Department, Davit Shahnazaryan.

Appearing in parliament, he acknowledged that the political situation in Armenia heated in Armenia after killing of the Yerevan ex-mayor Hambartsum Galustyan. He also assured that "Galustian's assassination will be discovered for 100 percent". Mr. Shahnazaryan called to cold-headed and sober resolutions of parliament.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Plans Closer Cooperation With UAE

LD2112221594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 21 Dec 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zzherebtsov, Andrey Petrovkiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A governmental delegation from the United Arab Emirates [UAE] paid a fact-finding visit to Azerbaijan. A major goal of their trip is to find out what the potential of business cooperation between the two countries is like, the chief delegate Mohammed al-Abbar told President Geydar Aliyev. (The delegation included the minister of trade, the chairman of the chamber of commerce and industry, the director of the free economic zone in Dubai and representatives of business circles).

Aliyev believes that there are good prospects for economic ties between Azerbaijan and the United Arab Emirates. He reminded those present of his meeting with the UAE President Shaykh Zayid at the December forum of the Islamic Conference Organization in Morocco, and noted that the two countries' business circles "must use the good relationship established between their leaderships."

As the Azeri president said, he instructed the leaders of corresponding ministries and departments to draft long-term plans for cooperation with the UAE.

Aliyev Invited To Victory Celebrations in Britain

NC2212114594 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The British Government has invited President Aliyev to attend the ceremonies that will be held in London on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the victory that was achieved in World War II. The ceremonies will be held on 6-7 May 1995. The invitation was conveyed to President Aliyev by Ambassador Thomas Young today.

The representatives of the countries that played an important part in the achievement of victory and the heads of state of nearly 50 countries will attend the ceremonies. Representatives will arrive in London from all parts of the world. The festive ceremonies will begin on 6 May and the occasion will be marked on 7 May.

Recalling the importance of the united effort Britain, the United States, and the former Soviet Union made in the war against the fascistic forces, President Aliyev said that he is well-aware of how tragic the war was for Britain. He stressed the following: I welcome the information you have given on the marking of the anniversary at such a high level. I accept your invitation and I will try to comply with it.

Gasanov 'Regrets' Border Closure Decision

NC2112185294 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Russian Government's decision to suspend transportation with Azerbaijan and Georgia in connection to the events in Chechnya caused a wave of emotion in our republic. The Republic's

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Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov received the Russian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Valter Shonia today in this connection.

The Republic's foreign minister indicated during the meeting that Azerbaijan does not have a common border with Chechnya and has no connection with Groznyy at all. And, the Russian Government's decision yesterday only strengthens the blockade against Azerbaijan because most of the freight to and from the republic passes through the Russian territory. Considering the fact that a state of war exists between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Gasan Gasanov regretted that only our republic was the target of that decision.

Russian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Valter Shonia said that the decision is not linked with the Karabakh conflict and stressed that it was only temporary.

After the meeting we interviewed Valter Shonia. [passage omitted]

Closure of Border 'Temporary'

LD2112235394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2252 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 21 Dec—The Ministry of National Security of Azerbaijan describes the closure of the border between Russia and Azerbaijan as a "temporary measure" in a statement released late on Wednesday [21 December] evening.

It has already been reported that, in accordance with the federal law "On the state border of the Russian Federation," the Russian Government temporarily suspended the entry into Russia of physical persons, means of transport, cargoes, and goods arriving from Azerbaijan and Georgia from 0000 on 21 December 1994 until further notice, in order to maintain the security of Russia.

At the same time, the Ministry of National Security of Azerbaijan denies reports that foreign mercenaries, volunteers, military equipment, and munitions are being transferred across the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Chechnya.

The statement also says that the Ministry of National Security of Azerbaijan will make every effort to maintain peace and harmony on the borders between Azerbaijan and Russia and hopes that this temporary measure—the closure of the border—will be cancelled in the near future.

Turkmenistan To Supply Natural Gas to Azerbaijan

NC1612195494 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan have signed an agreement to supply natural gas to our republic in 1995. The agreement was signed when First Deputy Prime Minister Abbas Abbasov lead a delegation to Ashgabat. In a statement to our correspondent, (Alibov), the vice president of the Azergas State Company, has said that Azerbaijan will receive 3.5 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Turkmenistan. Our republic's debts to that country currently total the equivalent of $84 million.

An agreement was reached during Abbasov's visit to allow Azerbaijan to repay its debts with its oil products in the latter half of 1995.

'Fierce' Fighting Continues in Northern Groznyy

NC2112201394 Baku TURAN in English 1608 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy (December 20) TURAN: This morning fierce fighting between Russian and Chechen's troops continued on the north of Groznyy, TURAN's correspondent reports from Groznyy. Being armed with plenty of armoured personnel carriers, Russian troops attempted to enter Groznyy from the north. For the past day they moved 1 kilometre to Groznyy from the north. Presently fighting is conducted 3-4 kilometres to Groznyy city.

Official sources in Groznyy report that Russian troops use up-to-day arms but they also lost arms as well as lives. Official Groznyy reports the number of dead and wounded Russian soldiers reached 800 persons.

Last night Groznyy was bombarded several times. Chechen's Minister of Communication, Saidemin Ibrahimov, told TURAN that many people have died and have been wounded as a result of bombardment. He also mentioned that the city is blockaded from three sides and that is why there is a shortage of food products. However, all enterprises and organization work as usual.

President Dudayev is in his residence and controls the situation, Ibrahimov says. He also reported that "number of Russian POWs increases day by day and none of them suffered since beginning of bombardment of Groznyy". Commenting on the opportunity of negotiations between Groznyy and Moscow, Ibrahimov said that "Dudayev once more called upon President Yeltsin to conduct peaceful talks without preliminary conditions but Kremlin's reaction was another bombardment of Groznyy".

Volunteers from North Caucasian republics and several foreign countries continue arriving in Groznyy. Official sources report from Groznyy that volunteers from Afghanistan and Pakistan also arrive in Groznyy

Baku-Makhachkala Train Movement Suspended

NC2112184194 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The train traffic between Baku and Makhachkala has been suspended as of today. In a

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cable sent to the Azerbaijani Railway Administration, the Russian Transportation Ministry said that train traffic from Azerbaijan to Russia has been suspended until further notice due to the exacerbation of the crime situation on the North Caucasian Railway.

Fuad Memedov, head of the passengers service department of the Azerbaijan Railways, stated that all those citizens who have bought tickets for the Baku-Makhachkala train could return them to railway booking offices.

Nagorno-Karabakh Parliament Institutes Presidency

LD2312231994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1816 GMT 21 Dec 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Martirosyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert December 21 TASS—A session of the Nagorno-Karabakh parliament of the first convocation today passed a resolution on institution of presidency in Nagorno-Karabakh. The session was reconvened after a month's interval.

Motivation for the decision was that the present authorities cannot handle the enclave's situation efficiently.

State Oil Company President on Caspian Project

MK2212063194 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Dec 94 pp 1, 2

[Aydyn Mekhtiyev report in the "Fuel" column: "Realization of the 'Contract of the Century' Begins. Azerbaijan State Oil Company President Natig Aliyev on Problems of Implementing the Oil Project"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the Azerbaijani parliament (Milli Mejlis) ratified the oil contract, signed 20 December in Baku by the republic government and a consortium of Western oil companies, preparation work began on implementing this document. This was said to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent by Natig Aliyev, president of the Azerbaijan State Oil Company (ASOC). According to him, in the past few days ASOC received letters from oil companies, which are members of the consortium, discussing first steps toward developing Caspian oil deposits. "Therefore the contract has already entered into force," Natig Aliyev said, "and this means that, under the agreement reached, in the next 30 months the consortium members will pay our republic a bonus." Natig Aliyev is confident that at present the debate over the legitimacy of the contract is a dead issue because it has become clear that Azerbaijan has a sovereign right to develop oil deposits located in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea. The attempt by certain forces in Russia to raise the question about the status of the Caspian has failed, Natig Aliyev believes. "At the same time we agree with the proposal to discuss matters pertaining to environmental protection, raising the water level, commercial shipping in the Caspian, and other matters," the ASOC chief says. A few days ago the republic parliament passed a decision giving the oil contract the force of law. This was done in response to a request by consortium members. "The fact is that the contract is calculated for 30 years and calls for huge capital inputs. Naturally, it is inadmissible in this context that the contract be subjected to any additions or amendments in the future. Western companies see this as a guarantee that in the future all the provisions of the contract will be kept intact," Natig Aliyev says.

At the first stage of implementing the contract Azerbaijan has come up against a serious problem. The republic, which has found itself in a deep financial crisis, has been trying, ineffectually, to raise funds to contribute its share of investment in the oil project, as envisioned under the contract terms. This is why Baku has asked Iran for financial assistance. Recently the Azerbaijani capital was visited by Iranian Oil Minister Gulyam Reza Aga-zade who promised to make the necessary sum available to Azerbaijan. But Iran made a counter condition: Teheran must receive a stake in the oil project. Azerbaijan accepted it. As became known, Baku has ceded to Iran 5 percent of its share of profit in the oil contract, which constitutes 20 percent of the overall volume. Natig Aliyev explains the reasons for Iran's joining the oil project in this way: "Relations between our oil company and Iran in developing undersea deposits are not a new question. In the course of visits to Baku by Iranian officials a proposal was aired about wide-scale collaboration in exploiting natural resources. Thus, Iran proposes setting up join ventures in the Caspian, and conducting joint exploration not only in the Azerbaijani sector but also the Iranian sector of the Caspian Sea. The Iranian side displays a particular interest in a joint venture project with the participation of a deep-water [oil] exploration equipment plant in Baku, and building floating platforms in the Caspian, because Iran would like to go ahead with developing the Iranian sector of the Caspian Sea. The question of Iran's joining the oil contract was discussed during a visit to Baku by Iranian Oil Minister Aga-zade. But while intensive consultations were under way with Western firms on terms for signing the contract, it was premature, in my opinion, to speak about Iran's acceding to the project. The situation changed when the contract was signed and later ratified by the republic parliament. And so we decided to cede part of our share to Iran. We regard Iran as our big neighbor. That country has a substantial oil potential. Azerbaijan is in a difficult geopolitical situation. On one hand, owing to the events in Chechnya, the railway which has been bringing freight into to the republic for its national economic needs has been shut down. On the other, instability in Georgia causes an erratic operation of its transportation lines. We have concluded a treaty with Iran whereby the lion's share of diesel fuel produced by Azerbaijan will be sold to Iran for hard currency. We have been supplying diesel fuel to Iran in 1994, and we have extended this contract for 1995. Another important aspect of our relations with

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Iran is the absence of a common border between Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan, which is part of Azerbaijan. The Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic is on an energy starvation diet. We have reached agreement to build a gas pipeline to Nakhichevan via Iranian territory and are planning to build an oil refinery in Nakhichevan."

The mass media have reported a negative reaction by the West to Iran's joining the oil contract. Can the agreement between Baku and Teheran be annulled in the event that the consortium members are really against Teheran's participation in the project? Natig Aliyev says: "The U.S. side, indeed, will hardly be delighted with this accord. The United States is suspicious of Iran. Moreover, the U.S. Administration may have imposed a ban on Iran's accession, but I am not aware of such a ban.

"The contract provides that cession by one project member of part of its share to a third party may happen if there are sufficient grounds for such a move."

The next important subject NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent broached in his conversation with the ASOC president was the question of building an export oil pipeline from Azerbaijan to Europe. Baku officialdom admits that the pipeline question has changed from an economic into a purely political one. Earlier, relations between Russia and Turkey worsened sharply, after Ankara unilaterally imposed limitations on the passage of supertankers through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits. Moscow saw this move as a preemptive strike aimed at preventing the transportation of Azerbaijani oil according to the Russian plan: via the Russian port of Novorossiysk by tankers through the Black Sea to Europe. This is why last fall Moscow proposed a new route for oil exports: From the port of Novorossiysk oil will go to the Bulgarian port of Burgas, then to the Greek port of Alexandropolis, and then to the European market. Greece actively supported the project. Here is what Natig Aliyev thinks: "The question of the pipeline is key to this project because without a pipeline the production of such a large amount of oil as 40 million tonnes a year becomes senseless. Under the contract, in four years, i.e., in 1999, all the three deposits will be developed: Azeri, Chyrag, and Gyuneshli. In four and a half years from the moment the contract went into effect, i.e., in 54 months, the oil pipeline is to be commissioned. I believe that approximately two years will be spent on negotiations on the route for the oil pipeline and the resolution of technical problems, and the next two years will go for building the pipeline. A pipeline consortium will be created, which will address financial problems. Today all bids proposed are being considered, but I must say that none of them is substantiated enough. From the geopolitical point of view, questions of the reliability and security of the pipeline take center stage. Therefore the decision about the pipeline's final route will be made after the pipeline consortium has presented its proposals on this count to us."

Georgia

Shevardnadze Denies Russian Military Using Airfields

LD2112132794 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 1124 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Nodar Natadze said at the session of the Georgian parliament on 20 December that, in connection with events in Chechnya, parliament should adopt a law banning participation of citizens of Georgia in hostilities and the use of the republic's territory for military purposes by either side. According to Natadze, he had information that Georgian airfields were being used by Russian planes patrolling Azerbaijani territory to prevent it being used for communication between President Dudayev's supporters and Muslim states, in particular Iran.

Eduard Shevardnadze responded by saying that statements of such importance should be supported with evidence. He said that he had no information concerning the use of Georgian airfields by Russian military aircraft. As for the participation of citizens of Georgia in hostilities on Dzhokhar Dudayev's side, apart from 1,200 Abkhaz militants, not a single representative of Georgia is involved in the conflict.

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Fight Against Russians

LD2112191094 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Temporary Information Center for the Chechnya events reports that Russian border troops are resorting to every measure in order to guard the Russian territory and, in particular, the Chechen conflict zone from foreign mercenaries and arms smuggling. The Russian-Georgian and Russian-Azeri borders are under special surveillance. According to the head of the information center, representatives of various nationalities have been arriving in Chechnya from Georgian territory. Georgians are also among them. They are violating the border and arriving in combat groups in the conflict zone and are fighting against Russia's state interests. In the meantime, according to the ITAR-TASS reports based on the so-called Ministry of Information and Publishing of Abkhazia, the first group of volunteers made up of Zviad Gamsakhurdia's former supporters has arrived from Zugdidi in Chechnya in order to fight. The group has arrived in Chechnya as a sign of gratitude to help Dudayev in return for the assistance that the Chechen president had rendered earlier to Gamsakhurdia's supporters.

Motor Rifle Division To Replace Russian Peacekeepers

LD2112214794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1510 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At the session held recently at the headquarters for joint peacekeeping forces for securing

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peace in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone, Colonel General Giorgiy Kondratyev heard a report by Major General Vasiliy Yakushev, the commander of the peacekeeping forces, who summed up the annual activities by the Russian "blue helmets," and adopted a plan for the replacement of the current subdivision. According to the preliminary decision by the Russian State Duma, the current contingent will be replaced by the servicemen from one of the regiments of the Motor Rifle Division No. 27 of the Russian Federation's Armed Forces.

Abkhazia Denies Volunteers Held En Route to Chechnya

LD2112223494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1924 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SUKHUMI, Dec 21 (Interfax)—Abkhaz acting Premier Leonid Lakerbaya said he considered information in some media alleging detention of a large number of Abkhaz volunteers going to Chechnya and seizing arms from them on the Abkhaz-Russian border as "rough falsification."

He told Interfax today that on the previous day the Russian border guards officials had said that there had been no attempts by Abkhaz residents to break through to Chechnya registered.

The Abkhaz president's Press Secretary Beslan Barganjiya told Interfax that he believed that the information was "a premeditated invention in order to justify the decision of the Russian government which closed the border with Abkhazia and thus exposed the multi-ethnic population of the republic to an extremely tough blockade."

Moscow decided to close the borders with Georgia, de jure including Abkhazia, and Azerbaijan on Tuesday explaining this by the developments in Chechnya.

Shevardnadze Orders Protection for Political Parties

LD2112131094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1248 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi December 21 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Sheverdnadze took a decision to provide protection for Georgian political parties, announced Georgian radio and television on Wednesday [21 December].

The decision says that "the republican security service, the Georgian Interior Ministry and the government protection service must draft and carry out efficient measures to provide protection for political parties".

The government service is vested with protection of the leaders of georgian political parties and organisations.

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Estonia

U.S. Congress Asked To 'Interfere' in Chechyna

LD2112212194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the Riigikogu Justice Commission today appealed to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress to interfere in the events in Chechnya.

The appeal asks them to use international authority to interfere in the violation of human rights in Chechnya, where the Russian regular army has surrounded the capital Groznyy and is indiscriminately bombing the town. The Justice Commission says that the civil population is being destroyed in Chechnya, whereas, this is not only national genocide directed against the Chechens, because nearly half of the town's population are Russians. Civilians are not allowed out of the town, and what is happening is reminiscent of mass-murder, the document forwarded to the Baltic News Service says.

In their statement, the members of the Justice Commission appeal for a protest to be made against the events, and conclusions to be drawn about the current Russian authorities who ignore the right of peoples to self-determination.

Finnish Firm To Clear Radioactive Waste at Paldiski Site

LD2112224094 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A contract between IVO International Oy and the Paldiski [former Russian submarine base] nuclear site was signed in Paldiski today. At a recent meeting between Estonian Prime Minister Andres Tarand and Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho, Finland promised to finance, as an aid, work that would reduce the radiation threat in Paldiski. The Finnish firm will clean up 450 tonnes of liquid radioactive waste over the next four months.

Ake Lahtinen, the project leader of the IVO International Oy, Ulo Mets, a representative of the firm's Estonian branch, and Juri Tikk, the special representative of the Estonian Government in Paldiski, were present at the signing of the contract. The Finns are the first to start cleaning up radioactive waste in Paldiski.

'Curious' KGB Document Grants Access to Secret Documents

WS2212102494 Tallinn ETA in English 0801 GMT 21 Dec 94

[From 21 December RAHVA HAAL, p.1, 2; "News Bulletin" No. 249/94]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Riigikogu [parliament] commission investigating the activities of foreign intelligence and security organisations in Estonia possesses a KGB document issued to present head of the Defence League Major Johannes Kert. The document found in Tartu KGB headquarters is an access permit to secret documents dating back to 1982. Commission chairman Enn Tarto explained that the document is curious because it grants access to materials of a higher secrecy level than usually. Kert himself has announced that he cannot explain the existence of the access permit, but will answer to questions at a news conference scheduled for Friday.

Russia Said Hoping To End Border Conflict in 1995

WS2212102594 Tallinn BNS in English 1354 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Dec 21, BNS—Moscow hopes next year to "remove forever from the agenda" its border conflict with Estonia, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergey Prikhodko told BNS.

"The ending year was one of great success for us—we completed the withdrawal of troops from Estonia. Next year we hope to take another big step and remove forever from the agenda the border issue," Prikhodko said.

The Russian diplomat emphasized that the frontier presented a problem only for the Estonian side. Russia is prepared "to put heads together with its partners to figure out a way of finally solving the border dispute," he said.

An Estonian Foreign Ministry delegation led by political department head Toivo Klaar is going to be in Moscow on Thursday and Friday. On the agenda of the meetings at the Russian Foreign Ministry is also the border issue.

Prikhodko told BNS the Russian Foreign Ministry was pleased with the "constructive signals" they'd been lately getting from Tallinn. Therefore Russia hopes the Estonian-Russian border conflict can be solved through "constructive talks."

Delay of Border Demarcation Along Lake Peipus Possible

WS2212102394 Tallinn BNS in English 1820 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Dec 21, BNS—Russia has not as yet marked down the border with Estonia in Lake Peipus and it is not known when work there will be completed.

A Russian Baltic Fleet hydrography service team have been at work in Lake Peipus since Nov. 23. They originally planned to complete the unilateral marking down of the border by mid-December, but ice impeded the mounting of buoys to mark the border and work has been dragging.

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Capt. Vladimir Krylov, chief of the hydrography service, told BNS they hope to bring the work to a close by Dec. 25. His men keep monitoring the movement of ice in the lake from helicopters and border buoys are being installed in places where ice doesn't prevent work.

Georgi Sorotski, a hydrography specialist, said in an interview with BNS that the current operation in Lake Peipus was a sort of an experiment, since such work was usually done in spring and summer, not in winter. He didn't rule out the possibility that border demarcation in the lake couldn't be completed before spring.

Maj. Aare Evisalu, chief of staff of the Estonian Border Guard Department, declined to comment on work in Lake Peipus.

"We have no information when the Russians plan to complete the work," he said.

Evisalu said in an earlier interview with BNS that the Estonian side intended to watch carefully the demarcation of the border in the lake.

Russia has to date unilaterally marked down almost the entire land border between the two states along the line of the administrative boundary between the former Soviet republics of Russia and Estonia.

Latvia

Government Denies Involvement in Chechnya

LD2112154594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1500 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Latvian Ministry of Internal Affairs believes that any statements about the involvement of the Latvian state in the conflict in Chechnya have no legal basis, says a statement by the ministry's press center. There is no (?information) at the disposal of the Ministry of Internal Affairs at the moment to the effect that any state institutions of structures have been involved in the recruitment of mercenaries and sending them to the conflict zone in Russia. The issue of going or not going to fight for one of the sides on the territory of another country is a matter of each person's free choice in democratic countries, the statement says.

Paper Organizes Rally Against Telecommunications Deal

LD2112224594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today in the Esplanade [Riga] the "Neatkariga Cina" Foundation public organization held a rally to express the public's negative attitude to the contracts between Lattelekom and the Anglo-Finnish telecommunications consortium Tilts Communication. These contracts are not favorable to the most important branch of the Latvian economy—communications—participants in the rally were told today by representatives of many political parties who support the national interest in not allowing the Ministry of Communications to make suspicious economic and political deals. The contract concluded in January by Lattelekom with the Anglo-Finnish consortium Tilts Communication provides for the modernization of the Latvian telecommunications network, abolishing within four years the current telephone line, in which about 100,000 potential subscribers are awaiting their telephones. In a series of articles the newspaper NEATKARIGA CINA has sharply criticized the contracts, calling them a (?plan) that does not correspond to Latvia's national interests.

After the rally, the Saeima was visited by subscribers, readers, and supporters of the newspaper NEATKARIGA CINA, as well as the newspaper's editors, to present a petition signed by residents to create an independent commission to assess the activities of the Lattelekom enterprise.

In the plenary sitting of the Saeima today, the Democrats' faction proposed the creation of a parliamentary commission to investigate the activities of Lattelekom. This commission would assist in assessing the international aspects of the contract between Lattelekom and Tilts Communication, as well as its effect on the economic situation in Latvia.

Lithuania

EU Worried Over Russia's Military Transit

LD2112185094 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The European Union voiced its concern to the Lithuanian and Russian Governments about military transit to the Kaliningrad region which, according to the European Union representative, has not yet been regulated.

This was said in the statement by the German Embassy, which has been made public today with the consent of the embassies of all countries, members of the European Union.

According to the document, reaching a military transit agreement between Lithuania and Russia without delay is of great importance to the stability and security of the region. The report also stresses that such agreement would not make impact on Lithuania's coming closer to the European Union, however, it would help to strengthen Russian-Lithuanian relations, and, as a result, the stability of the Baltic Sea region as well.

The European Union urges both the countries to solve the problems in the spirit of good-neighborly relations and through a constructive dialogue.

According to the statement, the position taken by the countries of the European Union were also supported by Austria, Finland, and Sweden. These countries will become members of the European Union as of 1 January, 1995.

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Vilnius Appeals to International Bodies Over Chechnya

LD2112213494 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Seimas passed a resolution on Lithuania's actions in international organizations today.

It says: The events in the Caucasus culminating in Russia's military actions in Chechnya provoke great concern in the Republic of Lithuania. The Lithuanian Seimas recommends to the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to appeal to the European security and cooperation organization in accordance with its humane dimension document (Moscow, 3 October 1991) because of an especially gross violation of human rights in the Russian Federation and with the participation of its army, especially because of actions resulting in thousands of deaths and new streams of refugees.

The Seimas has no doubt that the Lithuanian delegation in the European Council will raise these issues in the corresponding committees. The Lithuanian Seimas considers that this issue should be examined in the UN institutions.

[At the end of the bulletin the announcer added the following] Here is more precise information: The opposition press representative Rasa Rasauskiene informs us that the resolution on Russian actions in Chechnya was passed today in the Seimas by a majority of votes. The Seimas opposition voted for the resolution.

Seimas Goodwill Mission To Discuss Chechnya in Moscow

LD2112191794 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 21 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Romualda Hofertiene, head of the Lithuanian Seimas Goodwill Mission, and Romualdas Ozolas, member of the mission, are to leave for Moscow tomorrow morning [22 December] where they will attempt to meet the Russian members of parliament to discuss the problems of Chechnya.

Romualda Hofertiene told the Baltic News Service that, at the beginning, the visa issuing formalities were delayed by the Russian Embassy in Vilnius, therefore, they had to postpone the trip for a day. This afternoon they managed to get the required visas.

Members of the Seimas Goodwill Mission are to return to Lithuania on tomorrow afternoon.

Drop Noticed in Rate of Growth of Real Wages

LD2112173894

[FBIS Editorial Report] Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian at 0830 GMT on 21 December broadcasts Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius' regular Wednesday [21 December] interview, in which he says that he has to admit that "the rate of growth of real wages has been somewhat lower this year than last year. The increase in real wages last year was 12 percent, however, this year this figure is three percent."

However, this year the increase in real wages was achieved by the government solely from budget contributions and not by currency emissions, which generate inflation. The prime minister says that this policy had been rejected by the government.

Speaking about the expected inflation rate next year, Slezevicius says that "the rate of inflation next year is expected to be 25 percent, which means that the price increase will be 1.25 times [0.25 percent], therefore, our task is to ensure that wages and pensions, the real income, would grow at a higher rate."

The prime minister says that over 3 billion litas will be earmarked in next year's state budget for the needs of education, health care, social security, and culture, which is 53 percent of the total budget expenditure.

More than 2 billion litas—which is almost 90 percent of all expenditure of the social insurance budget—will be spent on pensions, benefits, and health care. Slezevicius expresses his conviction that the rate of growth in real wages next year will increase.

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